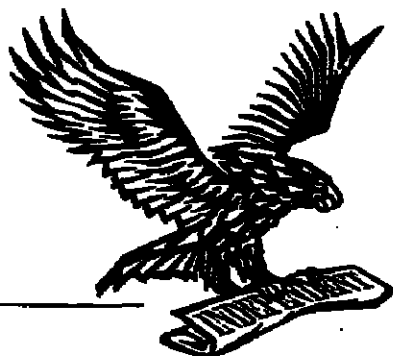
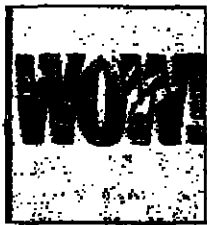


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THE INDEPENDENT

2,999

WEDNESDAY 29 MAY 1996

WEATHER Overcast early on, sunny later 40p (UK 45p)



Big mouth: An Indian tiger at Howletts Zoo, near Westerham, Kent. Conservationists are divided over the merits of captive breeding programmes Photograph: Philip Meech

Tyger Tyger, dying out

REBECCA FOWLER

At the beginning of the 20th century, more than 100,000 tigers prowled the world. Now, less than a hundred years down the line, the roar of the tiger has dwindled to a whimper, with only 5,000 surviving in the wild. But a campaign launched this week by the Federation of Zoos to raise £100,000 for three conservation projects, has run into controversy over the best means of conserving tigers and ensuring their future.

The campaign, Tigers Week, is aimed at supporting Siberian, Indian and Sumatran tigers. They are all at perilous risk from poachers, and the ever-present threat to their natural habitats.

However, the project is also promoting preservation work in zoos - including captive breeding - which has divided conservationists. Peter Lawton, chief executive of Global Tiger Patrol, an Indian based charity, which will receive money

raised from the week, voiced his concern yesterday. "While I am very grateful for the help they are giving us, we are totally against captive breeding. It gives a totally false picture of security, when the truth is that this is the 11th hour and if we don't put all our resources into saving tigers in the wild, we may lose them completely by the end of the century," he said.

The most disturbing cause for the decline of tigers is the rise in trade for their body parts for Oriental medicine. There is a huge lucrative black market, in which dealers can expect \$15,000 for a skin and around \$20,000 per 10kg of bones.

Among the recent casualties found by Mr Lawton in India was a tiger which had had its face blown off by a home-made bomb in a piece of meat, and it took 28 hours to die. In India, which has the world's largest population of tigers in the wild, numbers have dropped to between 2,500

and 3,500 in the wild, and poachers have caught an estimated 1,000 for skin, meat and bones in the north of the country during the last three years.

The Siberian tiger is the most critically endangered, with only between 150 and 250 surviving in the wild, making it one of the rarest animals in the world. The wildlife charity Tusk Forces hope to set up an extra anti-poaching patrol, which would cost around £30,000.

There are also fewer than 500 Sumatran tigers currently in the wild. The Sumatran Tiger Field Project hopes to improve links with ex-situ breeding programmes in zoos, and improve the monitoring of wild populations.

The Federation of Zoos defended its position on captive breeding yesterday, saying: "We state the best place to save animals is in the wild, but sometimes extra help is needed. In the case of tigers, we're providing a safety net."

Parents confused, Brussels baffled

Events overwhelmed the Government yesterday as it struggled to crisis-manage its way through the beef and baby milk dilemmas. In Brussels, British ministers blocked initiatives they had badly wanted

to see go through. Why? Because they were trying to force a quick end to the beef ban. But immediately after using his veto, one minister suggested the ban could last "four, five or six years". The con-

fusion was mirrored in London, where an attempt to stifle public fears about baby milk by refusing requests for information merely made the situation worse. These were not Whitehall's finest hours.

SARAH HELM
Brussels

British ministers went to Brussels yesterday to carry through John Major's policy of non-cooperation with European partners and found themselves resolutely applying the veto to measures for which they had campaigned.

The ironies implicit in this British retaliation for the beef ban could not have been lost on Roger Freeman, Minister for Public Services, and Baroness Chalker, Minister for Development, blocked proposals on everything from co-ordinating aid to the Third World to free trade with Mexico. The war in Europe had started.

But by midday, the ministers were beating a humiliating retreat. Mr Freeman emerged to say that victory was nowhere in sight. Britain could be bogged down in the quagmire of the beef war for "four, five or six years", he declared.

His disruptive tactics would have only limited effect, he conceded.

Furthermore, Mr Freeman was forced to admit that he had shot himself in the foot by blocking decisions for which Britain has campaigned for years. Simplifying European Union legislation has long been a British objective, but yesterday Mr Freeman sacrificed proposals to cut back on red tape for the sake of the battle for beef.

Britain said no to 11 EU decisions yesterday. Seven were blocked in the development of aid to the Third World, and four in the internal market. The decisions were: to opening up trade between Europe and Mexico; to helping travellers who need emergency passports get assistance from any EU embassy; to co-ordinating aid to the Third World; to simplification of new laws on the single market and reducing the amount of new legislation.

Britain is not having a glorious war - that much is clear from the Brussels front line. Yesterday the aims appeared confused, the strategy ill-advised, and the troops demoralised and badly-led.

For instance, Mr Freeman's comments appear to contradict the Government's previous statements, that the total ban can be lifted within weeks, or as soon as agreement is reached on a "framework" programme of eradication of Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy from the national herd. The Prime Minister has indicated that such a framework should be agreed before the Florence summit in three weeks time.

But asked yesterday whether the eradication of BSE would take months or years, Mr Freeman replied: "It is clearly not months. Because of the gestation period it could be in the order of four, five or six years. It is not possible to forecast when the UK is entirely BSE free."

Yesterday's campaign of disruption at the Council of Ministers focused on two council meetings: development - which deals largely with aid to poor countries, and the internal market, which aims to implement a border-free Europe.

On the agendas of both meetings were uncontroversial proposals which Britain has previously supported. For months Whitehall officials and the UK representatives in Brussels have toiled to finalise details and hammer out compromises, ready for their ministers to agree. But yesterday, where unanimity was required, the ministers had been instructed to block.

Lady Chalker blocked a long-

standing plan which would pave the way for liberalising trade between the EU and Mexico. The proposal has, to date, been fully backed by the British Government.

Lady Chalker also blocked measures intended to target European aid to Third World countries more effectively and efficiently. Efforts to channel funds directly to victims of Aids could be delayed, as will studies on the effects of aid-spending on migration and the environment.

Mr Freeman, meanwhile, blocked long-awaited moves aimed at simplifying EU legislation. On yesterday's agenda for the so-called "slims" proposal, was a plan to bring about the mutual recognition of diplomas, which would make it easier for job-seekers to take work in other member states.

The plan would also have simplified rules in EU countries on plant health, and simplified import and export forms. A task force of officials at the Department of Trade and Industry has been working on the proposals since December. Yesterday, however, the proposals were shelved.

Ministers and officials yesterday attempted to rebut criticism that they were blocking measures which were in Britain's interest. But as they defended their position they only raised further questions about the strategy.

Mr Freeman told journalists that although he had blocked the measures in the internal market council, these would not have any effect as the work would go on.

All that had actually happened yesterday, said Mr Freeman, was that a "resolution" had been delayed. But, he went on, "Work on deregulation will continue at the national level and in the [European] Commission. And we encourage that."

Mr Freeman insisted that while some of the shelved proposals would have been in Britain's interests, "it is in the interests of Britain that we make progress on lifting the ban on British beef."

Ministers, it seems, could be coming to fight on the Brussels front line for some time to come.

Tories are 'losing control' on milk

GLENDIA COOPER

The Government was accused last night of "losing control" over the baby milk alert as thousands of worried parents jammed telephone lines, deluged doctors and advice groups with calls.

The Consumers' Association called for a full inquiry into the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food's handling of the affair and even a leading manufacturer of baby food described it as "confusing".

As it emerged that milk from all the major manufacturers had been found to contain levels of phthalates, which have been linked to impaired fertility in rats, the ministry still refused to name the brands involved.

Yesterday the British Medical Association and the Royal College of Nursing joined the calls for the full results of the tests to be published. A spokeswoman for the BMA said: "We fear there will be a flood of parents coming to doctors expecting expert advice and information and the GPs will only know what has been published in the media."

Sandra Rote, the RCN's Community Health Adviser, added: "We are receiving a steady stream of calls from nurses desperate for authori-



tative advice on the current scare. Nurses are in the front line of reassuring anxious mothers and feel seriously let down by the lack of information."

Two mothers picketed the ministry's building in Whitehall to demand information. Lauren Bromley-Hodge, who feeds her six-month-old daughter, Hannah, on formula milk, said the Government's refusal to publish the information was "criminal". Veronica Wagner, mother of seven-month-old Ashley, described the situation as "Russian roulette".

"This is not like the BSE scare, where people can decide not to eat beef," said Ms Bromley-Hodge. "Milk is the mainstay of our children's diets."

This is the future of our children we are talking about. [The ministry] just don't care.

Labour's consumer affairs spokesman, Nigel Griffiths, warned that there was "danger of public concern spiralling out of control". He called again for all information to be made public, including the names of brands and the minutes of meetings with manufacturers "to show there was no cover-up at any stage."

Even Neil Bowen, marketing director of Cow & Gate, one of the four leading manufacturers, said of MAF's handling of the affair: "Unfortunately, the way the information came out was confusing, and that certainly hasn't helped."

He added: "The formulas are perfectly safe and there's no need to be concerned... There is really no point in naming individual brands, partly because they're all safe, partly because all brands were included, and partly because what we don't want to do is encourage mothers to needlessly switch from one brand to another, or from one brand to cow's milk."

But last night consumer groups were continuing to field hundreds of calls from the public. Diane McCrea, the association's head of food and health, said: "Consumers are still very confused and worried."

QUICKLY

Identity checks

Cheap videophones and computers that recognise faces are among the likely products of a leap forward in technology announced yesterday. Page 3

Preece claim

Patricia Preece, famous for her paintings earlier this century, did not do any of the work, it has been claimed. Page 6

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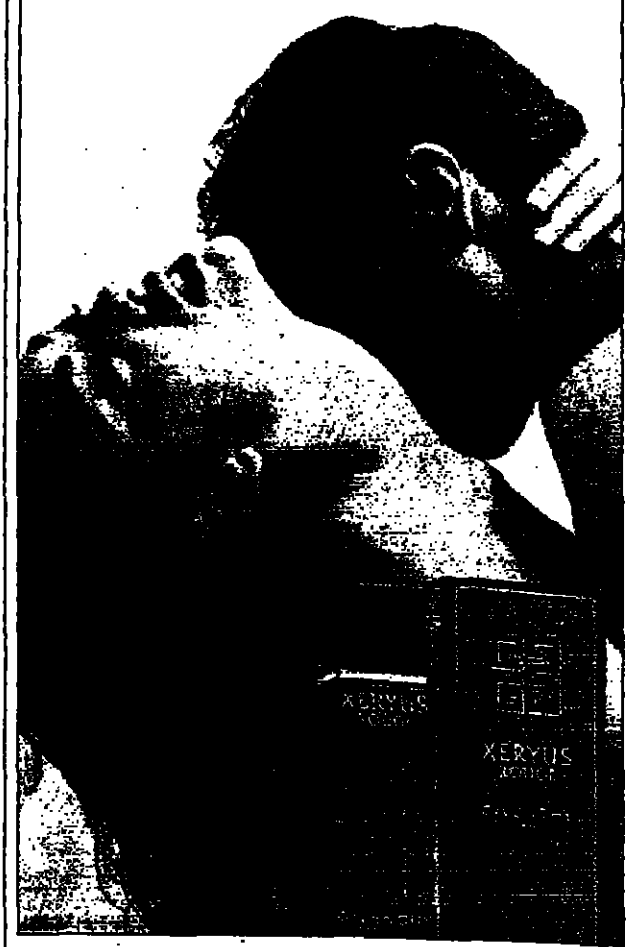
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XERYUS ROUGE
POUR HOMME



GIVENCHY

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news

Democracy betrayed in Albania

Andrew Gumbel in Tirana sees the slide towards a one-party state as riot police crush a protest against election fraud

Any lingering pretence of democracy in Albania came to a brutal end in Tirana's main square yesterday as riot police ploughed into opposition groups protesting at systematic fraud in last Sunday's election.

The crackdown was perpetrated by a regime which has received every encouragement from the international community, and the European Union in particular. EU governments have given President Sali Berisha and his Democratic Party their unquestioning support, despite a growing list of human rights abuses and strong indications that he would try to rig the election, because of the West's preference for stability in the small Balkan country.

Europe's reaction to the vote-rigging and the violence will be crucial. Refusal to recognise the vote could force Mr Berisha into holding a new election. Recognition – or no reaction at all – would effectively sanction the creation of a one-party state and a return to dictatorship in a country that for 50 years suffered extreme isolation and Stalinist repression.

Yesterday the opposition was already paying the price for Western indifference. Police wielding rubber batons knocked over old people, kicked and beat women with young children and injured a number of leading politicians and foreign journalists. Hundreds of other people were blocked off in side streets and prevented from joining the demonstration.

Servet Pellumbi, acting leader of the main opposition group, the Socialist Party, was in custody last night. The leader of the centre-right Democratic Alliance, Arben Imami, was recovering from severe head and body injuries inflicted both during the demonstration and later in police custody.

Several domestic and foreign journalists were left bruised and bleeding on the



Crackdown: Riot police using truncheons on demonstrators in Tirana yesterday. Old people and children were among those attacked. Photograph: AFP

ground and their equipment damaged. Most were unable to send their material because the government switched off Albania's satellite transmitter shortly after the event. It was a show of official repression that outstripped even the strong-arm tactics of the security forces in the dying days of Albania's Stalinist regime six years ago.

"The brutality used was totally excessive," commented Paul Keetch, a British observer who came to Albania to monitor the election. Mr Keetch has been one of the few foreign officials to raise his voice against what he called the "arrogant and illegitimate" practices of President

Berisha, who claimed a clean sweep of seats in the election for his party and accused the opposition of behaving like bad losers for refusing to recognise the results.

Mr Berisha wields near total control, not only over his party, the government and parliament, but also over the courts, the country's key economic interests and the broadcast media, which pumps out propaganda on his behalf.

In the four years since taking power at the head of a popular anti-communist front, he has alienated scores of former colleagues, who have set up political parties of their own, and

disillusioned most of the electorate offended by his clientistic style of government.

Yet he has been able to count on foreign backing, selling himself as a safe pair of hands to handle foreign political and investment interests in a country that was once the most closed in the world. Yesterday – belatedly – ambassadors from the EU were meeting to count the cost of its misguided policy of promoting "stability" in this potentially explosive corner of the Balkans. According to a statement issued earlier by Mr Keetch and 10 colleagues from Britain and Norway, Sunday's election was marred by wide-

spread vote-stuffing, illegal invalidation of ballot papers, intimidation and violence. "We must not give any form of legitimacy to these elections," Mr Keetch urged.

"It was totally blatant," reported another observer who did not wish to be named. "Even when observers entered polling stations, people were openly going through piles of opposition ballot papers and spoiling them."

Many polling stations opened late – in some cases with the ballot boxes already stuffed with fraudulent votes. Others closed early, claiming a 100 per cent turnout as early as noon. By mid-

afternoon, volunteers – many of them offered money – were arriving at marginal constituencies en masse to fill out multiple ballot papers with votes for the Democratic Party.

The Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe, which co-ordinated several hundred observers, was supposed to issue a report on the election by yesterday, but was stopped from doing so, according to some of its members, by European diplomats. "They told us they didn't want any inflammatory statements at this stage and suggested we issue the report in Vienna on Thursday," one OSCE official said.

Ministers draw closer to deal on disarming

ALAN MURDOCH and DAVID MCKITTRICK

British and Irish ministers are believed to have made significant progress in closing the gap between them on handling the controversial de-commissioning issue in next month's inter-party talks in Belfast.

According to reliable sources, progress was made in the talks in Dublin between the Northern Ireland Secretary, Sir Patrick Mayhew, and Dick Spring, the Irish minister for foreign affairs.

The two will meet again next week, in the wake of Thursday's election in Northern Ireland, to tackle remaining differences. The fact that progress was made will keep alive the faint glimmer of hope that an IRA ceasefire is possible to allow Sinn Féin entry to the talks, due to open on 10 June. Republican sources, however, are giving no indications that such a move is to be expected.

Mr Spring said "satisfactory" progress had been made at yesterday's talks, and emphatically denied there was any risk of the all-party talks being postponed. Irish ministers are expected to need parliamentary support on both sides will only agree to start disarming once real political progress is made in the talks, and that Sinn Féin may not co-operate if immediate de-commissioning is a pre-condition.

Unionists are demanding an early start to actual de-commissioning soon after the talks

convene. London has been unwilling to endorse Mr Spring's proposal for a parallel "fourth strand" in the all-party talks to tackle de-commissioning, which might be chaired by former US senator George Mitchell.

Mr Mitchell is said to be reluctant to become involved in the all-party talks unless invited by both governments.

Washington backs his participation, sensing it could help convince sceptical republicans that talks will be meaningful and substantive. Dublin similarly wants a broader role for Mr Mitchell than simply chairing de-commissioning talks.

The Taoiseach, John Bruton, yesterday told the Dail that he wanted the arms issue resolved in line with Mr Mitchell's February formula that some arms be de-commissioned during the all-party negotiations.

Earlier, the IRA was warned that it would be making a "serious political blunder" if it failed to renew the ceasefire and thus exclude Sinn Féin from the talks. Alliance Party leader Dr John Alderdice said: "Patience is wearing thin. Republicans should take their own advice and declare peace on the community."

Sinn Féin president Gerry Adams said yesterday: "We must have some positive political will and evidence of positive political will on behalf of the British Government if they are going to bring about the type of agreement necessary."

Bobby Lavery, councillor and reluctant election candidate, stands at the top of the New Lodge with a small band of determined-looking men ready to brave the steady downpour and canvass for Sinn Féin. The biggest sign locally says: "No return to Stormont rule."

He is a reluctant runner because he regards the election as unnecessary, a stalling tactic by Britain, "an absolute farce". He would have preferred a nationalist boycott, but with election day tomorrow Sinn Féin has to try hard to show that its support is not on the cbb.

Mr Lavery recounts that on one doorstep a woman, who was an acquaintance of his family, said she would not vote for Sinn Féin. When asked why, she said simply: "Ceasefire's broke."

So do the majority of people want another cessation? Mr Lavery, whose son and brother were shot dead by loyalists, replies: "Well, it would be silly for anyone to say they don't want a ceasefire, because anybody that wants to live in a situation of killing is crazy. The question I keep getting asked is – 'is there going to be another ceasefire?' I think it's one of the silliest questions I ever heard, because nothing is more certain."

The pertinent question is when. The answer to that lies with the army council of the IRA, and to a greater extent with John Major. This de-commissioning... first and foremost the British want surrender. Just like the generals of old when they handed over their sword, they want republicans to show that symbol of defeat.

A brief drive away is a loyalist area where David Ervine and the Progressive Unionist party are trying to do what Sinn Féin did for republicanism by grafting a new political dimension on to loyalist paramilitarism. Doing so, means persuading Protestants to switch away from mainstream Unionism: an Ian Paisley poster, in suitably lurid orange, serves as a reminder that old voting habits die hard.

Mr Ervine's canvassers gather in a little club decorated with Union flags, pictures of the Queen, and scenes depicting Protestant gallantry in the First World War. They pile into a

David McKittrick talks to the rivals in Ulster's election countdown



David Ervine: Looking to foster a new political dimension

"There's no way they're going to get that. Unfortunately, John Major is in a position where he's almost totally dependent on Unionist votes, so I don't think you'll see any major movement this side of a British general election."

A brief drive away is a loyalist area where David Ervine and the Progressive Unionist party are trying to do what Sinn Féin did for republicanism by grafting a new political dimension on to loyalist paramilitarism. Doing so, means persuading Protestants to switch away from mainstream Unionism: an Ian Paisley poster, in suitably lurid orange, serves as a reminder that old voting habits die hard.

Mr Ervine's canvassers gather in a little club decorated with Union flags, pictures of the Queen, and scenes depicting Protestant gallantry in the First World War. They pile into a

mini-bus to spread the message. "It's all extremely heartening," says Mr Ervine. "A lot of us are new to knocking on doors, but we're very encouraged. Nobody is slamming doors in our faces."

If his party finishes in the top ten it will be admitted to talks, only to face demands – led by the Ulster Unionist party leader David Trimble – for a speedy handover of loyalist weapons. "I've only had one question about de-commissioning, only one," says Mr Ervine. "That was from a man who felt loyalists shouldn't de-commission until the IRA do."

Less than an hour later, on a platform in the town hall in Ballymena – the buckle in the bible belt – Mr Trimble urges his audience to spurn such parties. "We have seen some rather unsavoury people strut across the political stage," he declares. "I

hope the electorate cuts them down to size on Thursday."

The Ulster Unionist leader said there would be no poll had it not been for his party, though he admitted that the unusual electoral system was not what he had wanted. Drawing on television's *Star Trek* for inspiration, he said: "It's the elections, Jim, but not as we know them."

There are signs that Mr Trimble's party is anxious that it will not do as well as originally hoped. The main reason, it seems, is that election warhorse Ian Paisley is tramping the campaign trail for his Democratic Unionists with undimmed energy and gusto, despite turning 70 last month.

Outside the town hall, a jet-black jeep pounds the Ballymena streets, loudspeaker blaring. The driver – Paisley's son Ian – already knows that fewer than 50 people were at the meeting and he stops to deliver a snappy seminar on how to get Unionist votes.

"Trimble fails to clarify his positions, whether it's on social issues or constitutional policy. They're a party of generalities – they don't have a specific tight position on most of these things. That makes it very difficult for them to come across with a consistent message."

"I think the electorate's sophisticated, but I don't think they're sophisticated to the extent that they can appreciate all the minutiae and innuendo."

It was a simple, direct message from a party expert in harvesting votes, and hopeful of harvesting many thousands this week.

SIGNIFICANT SHORTS

The England football team was last night involved in investigations into allegations that an aircraft carrying them back from Hong Kong was damaged. Scotland Yard confirmed yesterday that "Police at Heathrow are investigating an allegation of damage to an aircraft which was received from Cathay Pacific airline." A spokesman refused to go into further details. The airline issued a statement saying: "Cathay Pacific can confirm the incident happened on flight CX251 from Hong Kong to London Heathrow this morning. The airline has launched an inquiry and will make no further comment until the results are known." A spokesman confirmed that the England squad was on board the flight and that no one was injured.

The allegations, detailed by Cathay Pacific, were to be investigated by England manager Terry Venables "at the earliest opportunity". Steve Double, a Football Association spokesman, said: "He said 'if any action needs to be taken, it will be'. Mr Double confirmed that FA chief executive Graham Kelly received a fax from Cathay Pacific at 4.25pm yesterday. "Cathay Pacific have asked me to look at it." He refused to go into details of the nature of the allegations. Peter Vass.

A German woman was shot dead in Bedford yesterday night in a robbery at the hotel where she was staying with her husband in a group of 50 for the first time. Police said Johanna Sirginda, 36, died after two masked men in balaclavas entered the town's County Hotel at 12.20am, both carrying guns. They demanded cash from the staff, and made a failed attempt to open the safe. One of the German party guests from Bedford's twin town Bramingham, appeared at the door of the bar and was hit in the stomach with a gun. Seconds later Mrs Sirginda, who was sitting with her husband and friends, was killed when a sawn-off shotgun was fired. The gunman ran out of the hotel and disappeared.

Police are hoping the two men may have been seen in the neighbourhood. Detective Superintendent Dick Read said: "This was an armed robbery which went tragically wrong. Her husband is devastated. The party can't come to bed yet." Robert Fowles.

War-time artefacts confiscated from Jews by the Nazis during the Second World War are to be sold to raise money for victims and their families. Christie's auctioneers are to sell the items at the Federation of Austrian Jewish Communities from more than 1,000 items which they are said to have found in the Austrian Museum of Applied Art in Vienna on 29 and 30 October. It includes old watches and 19th-century drawings, as well as various scientific instruments.

Most of the property was turned over to the Austrian government by the Austrians after the war, on the condition that every effort should be made to trace the original owners. Repeated attempts to reunite surviving family members with the works of art have resulted in the return of more than 10,000 objects. The remaining items were transferred to the Federation of Austrian Jewish Communities by the Austrian Federal Ministry of Finance last year. Marianne Macdonald.

The Prime Minister's address on television tonight that MPs do not "remotely" reflect the make-up of the nation they serve. The present mix of the House of Commons does not remotely reflect the mix of the country as a whole, either in terms of Asian candidates, or indeed the male and female balance of the population. He says in an interview with Martin Bashir in tonight's *BBC2 programme East*.

The Conservatives have only one non-white MP, Nirj Deva (Barnet and Islington), and 18 female MPs out of 520. Mr Major says he would be "delighted" to have more Asians standing for Parliament, but stresses the selection of Tory candidates is a matter for local parties, not for Central Office. On the programme, Tony Blair, the Labour leader, says he is also committed to having more Asian MPs, and Paddy Ashdown, leader of the Liberal Democrats, describes parliament as "the best place to get a break". John Ransom.

Firefighters in Derbyshire yesterday became the second brigade within a week to vote in favour of a series of one-hour strikes. The ballot, with 75 per cent in favour of industrial action, follows the decision last Thursday by Essex firefighters to begin identical strikes against proposed cuts in levels of fire cover. The two forces will meet later this week to co-ordinate the action, likely to begin early next month. Fire Brigades Union general secretary Ken Cameron said the results showed the defiance of the brigades. He said: "Morale is lower than at any time since the National Fire Service strike in 1977." Yesterday's result came after Derbyshire County Council agreed to cut the service's budget by £1.3m. The authority insists the brigade would still meet minimum standard levels for fire cover.

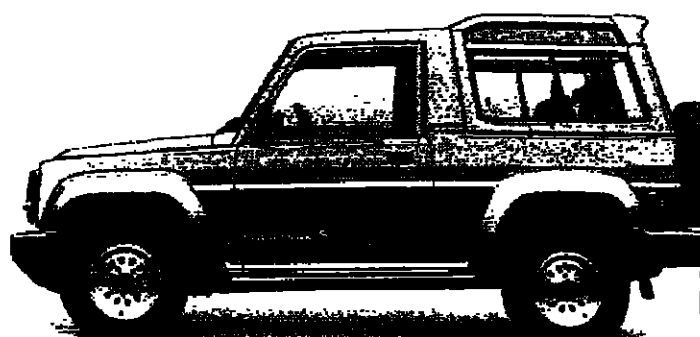
Donations to the Tory party from more than 100 companies have stopped since the 1992 general election, according to new research. Together these companies donated more than £1m in their last year of cash support for the Conservatives, according to Labour Research, an independent body funded by trades unions. Among the most significant deserters are Central Transport Rental, whose last gift was £80,000 in 1994-95; Baring's, who gave £20,000 in 1993-94 and Cameron Hall Developments and Racial Electronics, who in the same year gave £50,000.

THE INDEPENDENT ABROAD

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FOURTRAK

DAIHATSU

The first computer was as big as a room, now it's the size of a full stop... and it's getting even smaller

Videophones for the price of a standard telephone, wrist-phones, and computers that recognise faces are among the likely products of a leap forward in microchip technology announced yesterday.

The advance unveiled by the US semiconductor giant Texas Instruments (TI) would cram the equivalent of 20 of today's PCs onto a single chip, which could be on sale within three years. The result would be affordable products with enormous amounts of computing power.

The announcement is the continuation of a 30-year race to pack more and more electronics into ever-tinier spaces. For example, the computing elements of the wartime computer, the Colossus, right, would today take up the same space as the full stop at the end of this sentence.

"This new technology will make it practical to use calculations which today are just theoretical, because they would take too long with existing machines," said John Carter, of the University of Southampton's Electronics and Computer Science department. "Systems that need to identify faces have to do it in seconds, not minutes or hours."

Similarly, sending video signals down phone lines requires immense computing power at each end of the link. This has kept prices of videophones around £500 for some time. More powerful computer chips would make videophones both efficient and affordable.

New chip is the equivalent of 20 of today's PCs, writes Charles Arthur

TI will not have a monopoly, though Japanese and American companies are hot on its trail. Hitachi, NEC, IBM and Intel - which makes the best-selling Pentium chip for PCs - are all within sight of the same target.

By boosting the power of a single chip while keeping it at the same price, the new technology will cut the cost of products, since the most expensive element of making modern computers is assembling the different components.

TI's "Timeline" design reduces the width of the silicon "wires" in the chip from today's common value of around 0.6 microns (millionths of a metre) - 200 times thinner than a piece of paper - to 0.18 microns. This dramatic reduction in size means that many more transistors, the building blocks of a computer, can be squeezed into the same area.

Using this process, TI intends to build a chip containing 125 million transistors - a huge step up from the Pentium Pro, commonly found in PCs today, which contains 5.5 million transistors. Intel presently makes chips using 0.35 micron designs. The more transistors a single chip contains, the more processes it can carry out at once.

The latest announcement by TI is the demonstration of a "law" first proposed more than 30 years ago by an American engineer, Gordon Moore.

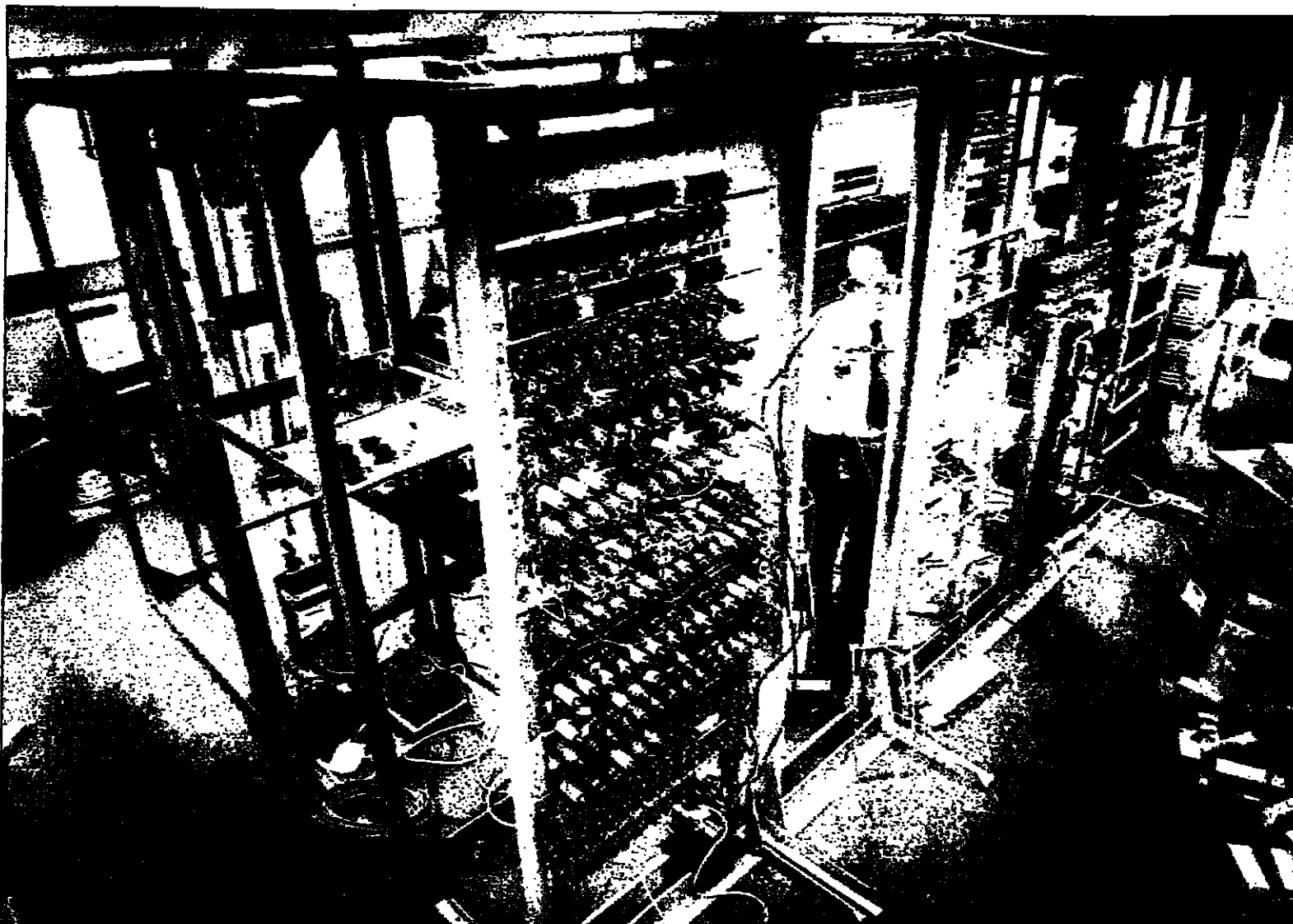
In 1965, Moore was preparing a speech about the improvement in performance of computers' memory chips, which were then rudimentary. He noticed that each successive generation of chips contained twice as many transistors as its predecessor, and was launched 18 months or so later. He reasoned that this trend could continue almost as long as required.

Moore, now 69, went on to be co-founder of Intel, now the biggest manufacturer of semiconductor chips in the world. The company's first chip, the 4004 (used in early calculators) contained 2,300 transistors. Since then, the power of individual chips has increased almost a millionfold.

However, the inexorable progress towards smaller chips may be nearing its limit. Physicists reckon that below 0.1 micron - a size which would be reached around 2005 - significant problems could arise from the unusual phenomena known as "quantum effects", in which individual electrons can tunnel through solid barriers.

This would mean that calculations could become unreliable. Clive Hoggar, a semiconductor product manager for TI, said: "The technology has a habit of moving immovable barriers."

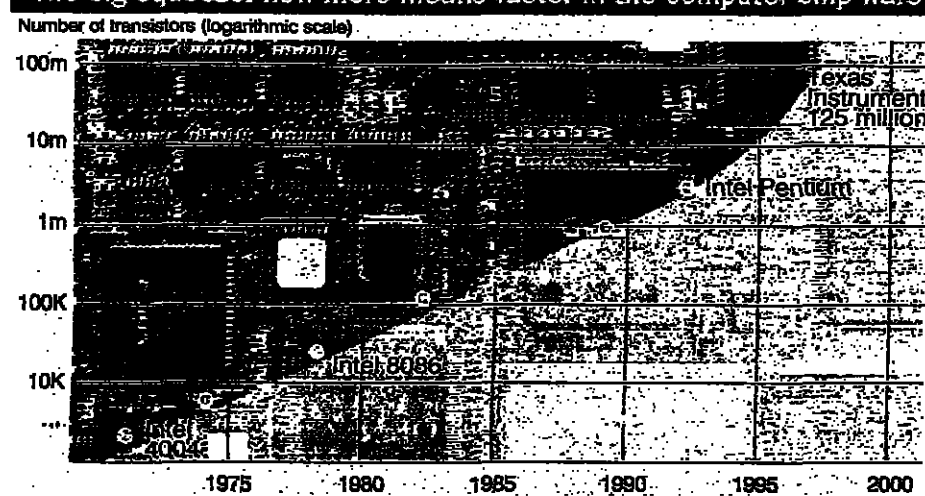
"Somehow, we always get past these problems."



Number-cruncher: Mr Sale with Colossus, whose entire capacity can now be contained on a single microchip

Photograph: Peter Macdiamid

The big squeeze: how more means faster in the computer chip wars



Colossus has returned after half a century. Its whirling tapes can read 5,000 characters a second but now the entire capacity of this grandparent of today's computers would fit on to a single modern microchip.

For the past two and a half years, Tony Sale, a former MI5 agent, has been engaged in a labour of love rebuilding the world's first electronic computer, which played a crucial role in shortening the Second World War. Next week his achievement will be recognised when the Duke of Kent switches on the rebuilt Colossus at the museum in Bletchley Park, Buckinghamshire, home of

Will Bennett traces the colourful history of the then revolutionary machine that helped shorten the war

British code-breaking operations during the war.

The ceremony will also mark the reversal of a very British denial of a great achievement: after the war in Europe, Winston Churchill ordered that the Colossus computers be scrapped to "parts no larger than a man's hand".

It was built to crack the German high command's Lorenz code, which was more complex than the Enigma system, which had been penetrated early in the war. Colossus did not decipher

the code but identified the wheel settings used by German operators, enabling Bletchley Park experts to work out what Hitler and his generals were discussing. Its greatest triumph was to show they had been fooled by Allied deception plans before D-Day, enabling the landings to go ahead.

Despite American claims that their ENIAC system, which was not running until 1946, was the first computer, British experts have always insisted Colossus was the dawn of a

technological revolution that has changed the world.

Mr Sale said: "I wanted to have Colossus up and running this year because the Americans are claiming that ENIAC, a numeric calculator, was first and that this is its 50th anniversary. But Colossus was operating two years before that."

No detailed records of Colossus's construction were retained by the Government: the last drawings were burnt in 1960. Mr Sale, who worked as a computer engineer after leaving MI5, re-

lied on photos, the memories of Bletchley Park experts and inspired guesswork. Many parts used to rebuild the 16ft wide, 7ft 6in high machine, which weighs a ton, are standard equipment used in telephone exchanges during and after the war.

The Government was as uninterested in financing Colossus's rebuilding as it had been in preserving it: a third of the £20,000 cost came from Mr Sale's pocket, the rest from private donations.

He said: "I could not get any official backing... I knew I had to do it now, or all the people who had worked on it during the war would soon be dead."

Jailed peer puts ancestral home up for sale at £15m

WILL BENNETT

Lord Brocket, who is serving a five-year jail sentence for a £4.5m classic car insurance fraud, is trying to clear his huge debts by putting his family home up for sale for £15m.

Estate agents put Brocket Hall and its 543 acres of parkland near Wheathampstead, Hertfordshire, on sale yesterday as its old Etonian owner continued to serve his sentence in Littlehey prison, Cambridge-shire.

Brocket, 43, a former polo-playing friend of the Prince of Wales, was jailed in February for what Judge Daniel Rodwell QC described as a "disgraceful" crime, aimed at reducing his debts of £10m. The sentence was the culmination of a downward spiral for a man who at one time had seemed one of the country's most successful aristocrats, with a 50-bedroom mansion, 15 of the world's most sought-after sports cars and a wife who modelled for Vogue.

His problems began in the



Lord Brocket and Lady Brocket: Marriage fell apart

1980s, when in an attempt to meet the crippling cost of running the house, he turned it into a conference centre and golf course. But with the arrival of the recession, firms began to cut back on holding conferences.

At the same time, his marriage to Cuban-born Lisa Lorenzo, once the world's fifth highest-paid model, began to fall apart. After the birth of their three children she found life at Brocket Hall claustrophobic and became a cocaine addict. Brocket's collection of

classic cars, bought with a huge bank loan, began to devalue and by 1991 his car company had a £7m overdraft and he had borrowed £3m to keep his estate ticking over. It was then that he hatched his plan to defraud an insurance company.

He falsely told police that four of the cars had been stolen by a professional gang and claimed the £4.5m insurance money. But the insurance company refused to pay up and a lengthy court battle began. Lady Brocket's drug problem wors-

ened, despite attempts at detoxification at two of Britain's top rehabilitation clinics.

His personal and financial problems came to a head when Lady Brocket was arrested for forging drug prescriptions and told police about the fraud. The couple have since been involved in a bitter custody battle over their children.

Selling Brocket Hall for an estimated £15m for a 125-year leasehold interest was an inevitable move given Brocket's financial problems. Earlier this year, David Sullivan, publisher of the *Sunday Sport* newspaper, was reported to be interested in buying it.

The 18th century hall was built for Lord Melbourne, whose son, the second earl, became Prime Minister in 1834. The latter's wife, Lady Caroline Lamb, renowned for her passion for the poet Lord Byron, arranged for herself to be served as the surprise dish at her husband's birthday party. She emerged naked from a large tureen.

Europe moves towards ban on chemical in PVC wrapping

CHARLES ARTHUR
Science Correspondent

Three European countries have banned the use of the organic chemicals known as phthalates, but scientists say that removing them from the environment may prove impossible, as their use has been widespread.

Scientists also disagree about the effects of exposure to phthalates, which have been suspected of affecting humans for more than 20 years. "There isn't a smoking gun pointing to a health risk," said Dr Colin Poole of Imperial College of Science and Medicine. "If one was shown, it would be a huge task to get rid of all traces of them."

There is some evidence that phthalates are "xenoestrogens", which mimic the effect of female hormones and could be

absorbed from PVC wrapping into fatty foods. There have been problems in Scandinavia with their absorption into blood stored in plastic bags for transfusions.

Sweden, Denmark and parts of Germany recently acted to stop the use of PVC, one of the biggest sources of phthalates that people are exposed to.

Last November, Sweden decided to phase out the use of PVC, while in January the Danish Environmental Protection Agency published a study showing that phthalates passed into the food chain by the manufacture of PVC could be accumulated in animals and fish, and would then be absorbed when those organisms were eaten.

In February, the city of Bonn banned PVC from public buildings, joining 200 German local authorities and six federal states

in the ban. The principal reasons include the presence of phthalates as an environmental contaminant.

Phthalates are used in making PVC, where they act as a "plasticiser". Their use has been widespread and has now been extended to other products.

"We know that they're certainly found in the rubber tubing of the laboratory equipment that our students use, because they keep getting extracted by the testing equipment and give false readings in experiments," said Dr Keith Jones, of the chemistry department at Kings College London yesterday. "Getting rid of them really is very difficult."

However, scientists disagree over what dose would be harmful, and whether xenoestrogens would have the same effect as normal hormones.

The Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (MAFF) says they are a million times less potent. In a study of the levels of phthalates found in paper and board packaging for food, it concluded that "estimated intakes... would be well within tolerable levels".

The ministry said that while there would be some absorption of phthalates from packaging, "other sources are also likely to contribute to the contamination of food by phthalates".

Studies into the potential effects of phthalates on the human reproductive system have been in progress since 1972, but have produced few definite answers. There is a loose connection with infertility, malformed births and cancer, but would require high levels of exposure - "like eating half an ounce of PVC every day," Dr Poole said.

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4
news

Dunblane massacre: Scottish town relives nightmare of 13 March as inquiry opens into slaughter of 16 pupils and their teacher



Floral memorial: A pupil passing tubs of shrubs dotted around the site of Dunblane Primary School's former gymnasium Photograph: Gary Doak

Families begin painful journey to the 'truth'

JAMES CUSICK

The harrowing journey to arrive at what Lord Cullen has called "the truth" behind the slaughter of a primary class of innocent children and their teacher, will begin today for the families of the dead of Dunblane.

Sheltered high in the balcony area seating of the Albert Hall in Stirling, the parents and relatives will look down, for the six-to-eight weeks of the public inquiry, on to the courtroom organisation that has transformed the hall into Scotland's newest legal arena.

It is hoped the balcony will

provide a safety zone, away from the international media corps, for those who may now hear for the first time of the events which led Thomas Hamilton to massacre 16 children and their teacher, before turning a gun on himself on 13 March.

In private last week, the parents and relatives of the victims met Lord Cullen, the senior Scottish judge who will head the inquiry, and the Lord Advocate, Lord Mackay of Drumadoon, who will lead questioning for the Crown. The families unanimously requested that details of the injuries suffered by the victims should not be explored in detail at the inquiry.

It is understood that their wishes will be respected when the first of the 60 witnesses, who will give their evidence over the next three days, is heard today. A ballistics expert, pathologists, senior doctors and paramedics, teachers and others who were the first to witness the horrors inside the gymnasium at Dunblane Primary School, are expected to deliver a "general outline".

What form the general outline will take will be determined today in the opening addresses of the five groups who have full legal representation at the inquiry: the parents of the injured or dead; the Scottish teachers' union, the EIS; Central Scotland Police; Central Region Council and Ron Taylor, the head teacher of Dunblane Primary.

Inevitably for close relatives, the parents of the dead and injured and those from the school and town who choose to attend, the inquiry proceedings will mean an emotional journey as they are forced to relive the

nightmare memories of 13 March.

Lord Cullen has expressed the wishes given to him at last week's meeting that "at such a difficult and stressful time" parents and relatives did not wish to be approached, photographed or sketched by the media. The highly-respected judge, who led the lengthy inquiry into the Piper Alpha oil platform explosion, was appointed by the Secretary of State for Scotland, Michael Forsyth, to conduct the tribunal.

His report, expected by the end of September, will address recommendations on the control of the possession and use of firearms and ammunition, school security and the vetting and supervision of adults working with children.

Given the broad brief by Parliament to examine "the circumstances leading up to and surrounding" the mass murders of teacher Gwen Mayor and 16 of her infant school pupils, the tribunal is likely to investigate the apparently child-obsessed background of the 43-year-old killer, Thomas Hamilton, and how he was legally allowed to keep firearms.

In his opening statement to the inquiry's preliminary hearing earlier this month, Lord Cullen said: "I shall endeavour to arrive at the truth."

Since the shootings there has been mounting pressure on the Government to tighten the laws on firearm ownership. The recommendations from the Cullen Inquiry will be crucial to the outcome of the current gun laws debate. The Government has said it will await the inquiry's findings before it decides on a course of action.

Gun law could not stop another Hamilton

The Firearms Consultative Committee, the organisation which advises the Government on firearms issues, came to the depressing conclusion last week that nothing it has suggested since being set up eight years ago could have prevented the Dunblane massacre.

Many senior police officers believe there is a growing gun culture in Britain, but, unfortunately, the question of how to stop another Thomas Hamilton from running amok is completely different to what should be done about the hundreds of thousands of firearms currently in circulation, many of which are illegally held.

There were 409,000 firearms (excluding shotguns) legally held in England and Wales in 1995, according to a Home Office bulletin published last week. It also said the number of certificates - more than one weapon can be held on each - has increased by just one per cent since 1994 to 141,700. After falling steadily over a number of years, from a peak of 216,500 in 1968 to 136,800 in 1992, the number of certificates has been slowly increasing for three successive years. Perhaps most worrying is the minuscule number of certificates refused by chief constables last year - just 220.

Not surprisingly, nobody knows how many illegally held firearms are in circulation. Estimates range from 500,000 to more than one million.

Increasing numbers of senior police officers, such as Sir Paul Condon, the Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police, have warned of the growing availability and use of illegal firearms.

Earlier this year, he told the Commons' Home Affairs Select Committee: "There is a growing willingness, particularly by young criminals, to carry knives and guns in circumstances which I find very disturbing, and as a society, we must do our best to counter that."

As well as the youth street gangs, increasing numbers of firearms have been reported among the country's swelling ranks of organised criminals. This is highlighted by recent shoot-outs among traditional gangs in Liverpool and killings by "yardie" drug dealers in London.

But unlike Australia, which announced plans for a ban and

Analysis

buy-back of automatic and semi-automatic weapons just days after a lone gunman killed 35 people in Tasmania last month, the British Government has rejected any "knee-jerk" reaction.

The Home Office points toward crime statistics which show that incidents involving firearms are still relatively rare. There were 12,977 recorded firearms offences in 1994, the last year for which the Home Office has full figures.

That represents a fraction of all offences, with a gun involved in eight per cent of homicides, or nine deaths.

Seven per cent of murders - 63 cases - involved a gun, together with seven per cent of robberies and one per cent of crimes of vandalism. In more than half of these incidents, the main weapon used was an air-gun.

The Government has said it will make any amendments to gun laws after Cullen publishes his report in September, although John Major has already pledged new controls on semi-automatic weapons.

As part of their submission to the Cullen inquiry, Labour has called for a national register of firearms and for the law to be changed to ban anyone aged 18 or younger - possibly with a minimum age of 21 - from owning or using a firearm.

They have also called for sweeping powers for chief constables to refuse the granting of firearms certificates.

As in Australia, the Government is under heavy pressure from gun lobbyists, who say any further tightening of the laws would infringe their rights and would be impossible to police.

Doctors have already rejected a proposal by the police that they should be responsible for vetting gun licence applicants for any psychological disturbance.

But as many critics have already stated, whatever new laws are introduced, it is only likely to make another Dunblane harder to achieve rather than prevent it outright. It is also unlikely to do much more than dent the availability and possession of illegal firearms.

Jason Bennetto

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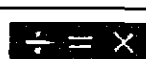
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Head in
bullying
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overdose

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Head in bullying case took overdose

A headmaster accused of bullying by his staff has been hospitalised after taking a tablets and alcohol overdose.

Alan Jackson, headmaster at Russell Scott primary school in Denton, Greater Manchester, was found wandering in a confused state nearly 100 miles away in Cumbria, police said.

Mr Jackson, who is also a magistrate at Lameside, had been under investigation by his local education authority after six members of staff made formal complaints accusing him of bullying, intimidation, threatening behaviour and assault.

The investigation ended and no action was taken after a meeting between Lameside education director Tony Webster and the school's board of governors last Tuesday.

Police were alerted by Mr Jackson's partner, Christine Mason, after he disappeared from his home in Audenshaw, Greater Manchester, last Thursday.

Detectives in Cumbria, where Mr Jackson's mother lives, were alerted by Greater Manchester police. Mr Jackson, 49, was found hours later wandering in a confused state by a member of the public in the Scale Hill area of Loweswater, near Whitehaven, said a Cumbria police spokesman.

Mr Jackson was taken to West Cumberland Hospital in Whitehaven suffering the effects of an overdose of tablets and alcohol, the spokesman said.

His condition was never thought to be life-threatening but he was kept in by doctors over the weekend. He returned home yesterday.

The school was closed yesterday for the half-term holiday. Martin Wareing, chairman of the school's board of governors, said staff were very upset at the news about Mr Jackson.

He made no comment about when and if Mr Jackson would be returning to the school, but the headmaster was understood to be resting at home while he considered his future.



Neat idea: Claimed to be the world's smallest museum, a converted telephone box opened at Covent Garden in central London yesterday with an exhibition on gin. Today it moves to Leicester Square, to stay until 28 June Photograph: Philip Meech

Howard 'stole' plans to beat yob culture

JASON BENNETTO
Crime Correspondent

Michael Howard, the Home Secretary, was yesterday accused of stealing Labour ideas with proposals to tackle "yob culture" and petty crime.

The Home Office is understood to be drawing up plans to crackdown on anti-social activities, such as begging, vandalism, and under-age drinking. The thinking behind the proposals is to hit minor offenders before they turn to a full-time life of crime.

The scheme is expected to be trumpeted by Mr Howard as his latest law-and-order offensive in July. Labour is angry that he appears to be trying to seize the initiative on "yob culture", which Jack Straw, Labour's home affairs spokesman, has been pursuing recently with at-

tacks against noisy neighbours, "squeegee merchants" - windscreen cleaners who prey on motorists - and young offenders. Yesterday's spat shows the importance both parties place on gaining an advantage in the law-and-order agenda in the run up to the general election.

As part of the Home Office review officials are examining a strategy called "zero tolerance" in New York - targeting drunks, prostitutes, vandals, drug dealers and beggars - which is credited with cutting crime by 27 per cent over two years. The New York authorities have used the "broken windows" theory - that if a window pane is mended the building is less likely to be burgled. Mr Howard visited the United States recently and is known to have been very impressed by the strategy.

Mr Straw yesterday accused ministers of systematically rubbishing a series of Labour policies that would have a near-identical effect in reducing incidents of anti-social activity. "It is quite remarkable that it has taken this Government 17 years to wake up to the connection between 'quality of life' incidents and big-scale crime," he said.

Labour has long understood that anti-social behaviour ... ruins many people's lives and heightens their fear of crime and lawlessness. We have brought forward a range of proposals to deal with neighbourhood nuisance, public disorder and juvenile crime. On each occasion the Government has unwisely sought to rubbish these proposals despite the backing they have received from police,

local authorities and other organisations.

Mr Howard was unavailable for comment yesterday but Home Office officials said that the review had been going on for some time.

With a general election looming and a Crime Bill already planned for the autumn it is unlikely there will be time for any new legislation, so the proposals are expected to use existing laws. They are almost certain to involve the familiar phrase "partnership" in which schools and local authorities will be expected to take a greater role in stamping out anti-social behaviour.

A ministerial working group set up in January is already studying ways of turning youngsters involved in minor vandalism and other activities away from serious offending.

Ardour of honeymoon cools as Blair slips in electability poll

JOHN RENTOUL
Political Correspondent

The closer Tony Blair gets to Downing Street, the more sceptical the British public becomes about him, according to NOP's opinion poll for the *Independent*.

Although half of those questioned by NOP last weekend thought Labour under Mr Blair was "ready to form the next government", this is a marked fall from the two-thirds (66 per cent) who agreed with a similar statement during Mr Blair's honeymoon period just after he was elected leader in 1994.

The latest figure also suggests a continuing decline since January this year, when Mori found that 56 per cent thought Labour was "ready to form the next government" and 54 per cent thought Mr Blair was "ready to be prime minister".

Similarly, the proportion say-

Is Labour ready to form the next government?

	All	Cons	Lab	L Dem
Yes	50%	19%	82%	42%
No	38%	71%	10%	51%

ing that Labour was not ready has risen steadily - from 25 per cent in December 1994, 33 per cent in January this year, and 39 per cent now.

Encouraging findings for Mr Blair in the *Independent*/NOP telephone poll of 1,005 people include the one-in-five Conservative voters and the two-in-five Liberal Democrat voters who say Labour is ready to form the next government.

Whether or not Labour is ready, a Labour government after the next election is now regarded as almost certain, according to a separate poll of 256 "opinion leaders" for the *Independent*. This poll found that

76 per cent believe Labour will win the general election, which must be held within 12 months.

A further 7 per cent think no party will have an overall majority in the Commons, in which case Labour would be likely to form a minority administration.

Of the sample of company directors, senior civil servants, media editors, politicians and trade union leaders, designed to reflect the views of people who have the power to influence public opinion, more than half - 57 per cent - think Labour will win with a working majority. A further 19 per cent think Labour will win, but without a working majority, usually defined as one of fewer than 10 seats, which is unlikely to survive a full parliamentary term.

Only 8 per cent think the Conservatives will win. This poll, carried out by Opinion Leader Research,

could reinforce the pressure for an autumn election, as it suggests deepening gloom on the economic front. Since July last year, the proportion thinking the economic situation improved over the previous 12 months collapsed from 83 to 55 per cent.

The overall impact of John Major's declaration of the "beef war" against Britain's European partners will be measured by voting intention figures in a closely watched Mori poll to be published tomorrow.

The *Independent*'s NOP poll suggests the impact on how people intend to vote will be limited, although it could reinforce Tory support. Only 6 per cent of electors said the campaign to disrupt Brussels business made them "more likely" to vote Tory at the next election against 19 per cent who said "less likely".

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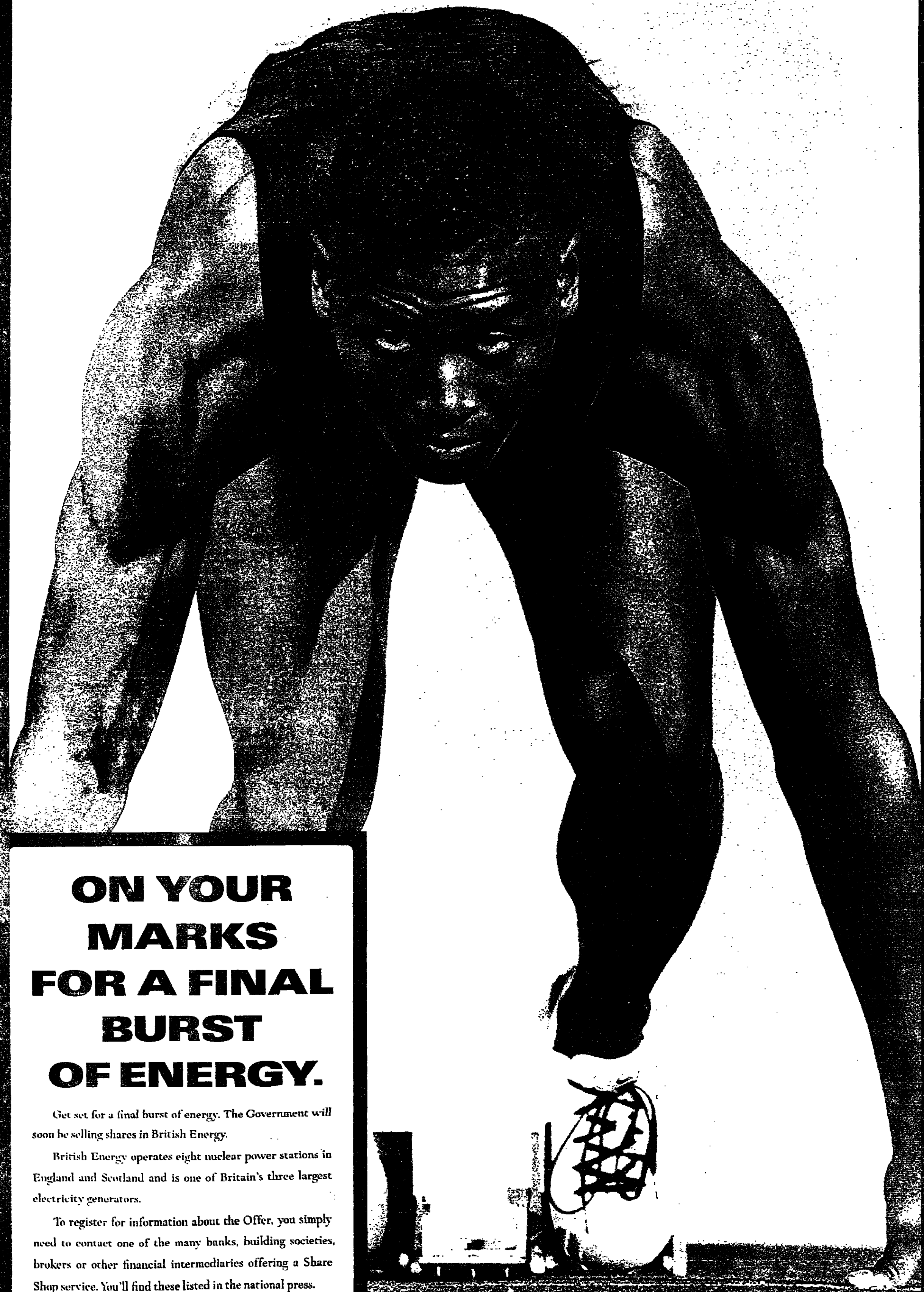
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edited by David Lister

Britpop calls the tune in contest for the best songwriters



Noel Gallagher

DAVID LISTER
Arts News Editor

Britpop songwriters look likely to dominate the Ivor Novello Awards for popular songwriting, which will be presented in London tomorrow.

The awards, in their 41st year, are internationally respected as Britain's major platform for recognising its songwriting talent. Last year's winners included Elton John,

Van Morrison, Elvis Costello and Sir Tim Rice.

This year, a step down a generation to acclaim the renaissance in British songwriting looks inevitable.

It has already been announced that Damon Albarn of Blur and Noel Gallagher of Oasis will share the Songwriters Of The Year award.

But the awards shortlist shows that most of the other categories contain Britpop en-

tries. "Wonderwall", by Oasis, is in the running for best contemporary song. "Common People", by Pulp, has been nominated for best song musically and lyrically. Supergrass's "Alright" is also nominated for best contemporary song.

Take That, despite their teenybop image, are on the shortlist for a number of categories. Their song "Back For Good" is on the shortlist for three categories: best song, in-

ternational hit of the year, and for the Performing Rights Society's most performed work of the year.

Britpop also makes its presence felt in the initial entries for this year's £25,000 Mercury Music Prize. The Oasis album "(What's The Story) Morning Glory?" and Blur's "The Great Escape" will both be competing against albums by veteran members of the musical establishment such as Bert Jansch,

John McLaughlin and John Tavener.

Both the Ivor Novello Awards and the Mercury Music Prize reflect that other recent phenomenon, the Jane Austen boom. Carl Davis's score for the BBC's *Pride and Prejudice* is nominated for a Novello award for best television or radio score. And the entries for the Mercury Prize include the soundtrack to the film of *Sense and Sensibility*.



Damon Albarn

The masquerade: An exhibition of Patricia Preece works opens shortly, but its curator challenges claims over her artistic 'collaboration'

The secret kept by artist's wife and her lover

MARIANNE MACDONALD
Arts Correspondent

Patricia Preece, the glamorous wife of Stanley Spencer who gained fame in her own right for her paintings in the first half of this century, did not carry out any of the work, it was claimed yesterday.

In a revelation which will generate ripples in the art world, Michael Dickens, curator of the first comprehensive exhibition of Preece's work, said yesterday that the real artist was Dorothy Hepworth, Preece's long-time companion and lover.

Until now the two were thought to have collaborated on the miniatures, portraits and still lifes bought by such famous names as Virginia Woolf, Augustus John and the collector Edward Marsh. But Mr Dickens said yesterday: "Patricia did very little painting in her life. Dorothy allowed her to take credit for work she did not do."

It is the first categorical claim that Preece masqueraded as the artist. Although she often signed the paintings, organised their exhibition and sale, Mr Dickens has found evidence from joint diaries kept by the women which proves that Preece had no hand in their creation beyond arranging objects for their still life paintings.

The claim is the latest development in the extraordinary life led by Preece and Hepworth in Cookham, Berkshire, yards from where Preece's husband, Stanley Spencer, lived and painted his best-known outside biblical canvases.

In 1937, Preece had married Spencer to the scandal of the Berkshire village, for Spencer left his first wife, Hilda Carline, for the woman who had openly lived for years with Hepworth.

Tall and elegant, the daughter of an Army officer, the vampish and sociable Preece was down on her luck financially. But marriage to Spencer set the seal on a lucrative – albeit fraudulent – artistic career.

It did not signal the end of her friendship with Hepworth. For although Spencer booked a honeymoon to St Ives he decided to stay at Cookham to finish a painting and attempt reconciliation with Hilda. Preece took Hepworth on the honeymoon instead. They continued to live together after the wedding and it remains unclear whether the marriage to Spencer was consummated.

Preece later spoke with revulsion of her diminutive husband's curious tastes. He painted her nude, was fascinated by her legs, and bought her numerous pairs of shoes, gaudy

underwear and frilly frocks. "He had to turn me into something horrible to obtain maximum satisfaction from our liaison. There was something appalling about Stanley," she said.

In the meantime the pair who had met at the Slade School of Art in London – where Preece got a pass and Hepworth took first class honours – continued their artistic "collaboration" in the face of several sticky moments when they feared their trick would be discovered.

One close shave came after Virginia Woolf bought two drawings from the pair in the early 1930s. She was so taken with them that she asked Preece to paint a portrait of a friend, Ethel Smythe. "Patricia went into a complete twitch and said she couldn't possibly do it unless Ethel came into the studio," Mr Dickens reports.

Preece died in 1968, aged 74, and Hepworth continued to paint, concentrating obsessively on self-portraits. But even after Preece's death, Hepworth continued to use Preece's name on her work until her own death in the late 1970s.

The first comprehensive exhibition of the work attributed to Preece begins on 10 June, at the Olivier Foyer in the National Theatre, on London's South Bank, and runs to 27 July.



Top: (from left) Dorothy Hepworth, Patricia Preece, Stanley Spencer and James Wood at Stanley and Patricia's wedding in 1937. Below: Spencer's Self-Portrait with Patricia Preece (Photograph: Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge). Right: A line drawing of Preece, signed PP, but believed to be by Hepworth

Indian Festival shows culture 'not just Rushdie and Kureishi'

SHUMA RAHA

A major arts festival designed to generate raise awareness of the culture of the Indian sub-continent has been welcomed by as an opportunity to show that there is more to Asian culture than novels by Hanif Kureishi and Salman Rushdie. The Festival of India's South, which showcases some of the finest examples of southern India's visual and performing arts, was hailed by prominent members of the community as an opportunity to put the region's rich culture on the map. By and large, they say, Asian art does not get the serious analysis it merits.

"There is no dearth of Asian

arts activity in Britain. But the overall perception is that they are of minority interest, so the mainstream tends to ignore them," said Jitendra Verma, artistic director of Tara Arts, a leading Asian theatre company.

Suman Bhuchar, a journalist and TV producer, said: "There are a fair number of performances here both by British Asians and by artists coming from India, but they rarely get the kind of promotion or publicity they deserve."

Though many Asians voiced their dissatisfaction with the way in which their culture is dealt with by the mainstream media, some said Asians themselves were often uninterested in the artistic and cultural heritage of

their country of origin. According to Anjana Patel, project manager for the Asian Community Action Group, very few Indians turn up at exhibitions of Indian arts and crafts which are held throughout the country on a fairly regular basis.

"The young people, especially the second or third generation British Asians, are not interested in ethnic arts. Their ties with the country of their origin are very diluted."

So, often there were more British or European Indophiles at exhibitions of Indian art or performances of classical music and dance than there were Asians themselves, she said.

However, she stressed that such festivals do fill a cultural

void for those Asians who are truly interested in their own arts.

Though the Arts Council did not have a breakdown of the audience profile at ethnic programmes, there seems to be a consensus that there is a high level of interest in things Indian among the British public.

S. Mani, a former mayor of Lewisham, said that though the festival was of tremendous importance to the local south Indian community, non-Asians would probably flock to a lot of programmes too.

According to the festival authorities, most programmes are already heavily booked and a classical dance recital of Bharatanatyam is completely sold out.

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Drama students hit by decline in grants

An inquiry into the decline in discretionary grants that are being given to drama and drama students is to be carried out by the Arts Council.

As reported last week, Virginia Bottomley, the Secretary of State for National Heritage, is keen that lottery money should be used to help fund dance and drama students.

However, the Arts Council, which distributes lottery awards, is adamantly opposed to this, claiming that dance and drama students should receive mandatory awards, as do music and art students.

The new Arts Council inquiry will be carried out by Clive Priestley, chairman of the London arts board. He will look into why the number of discre-

tionary awards has dropped by 44 per cent since 1987.

Many local authorities now give no grants at all for drama and dance, and others are not accepting applications for 1996-97.

Last week Rada received a £22m lottery award. But many of its would-be students are unable to take up their places, because of local-authority cuts to discretionary grants.

Rupert Rhymes, the chief executive of the Society of London Theatre, commented: "As far as our members go, we are dismayed at the news that there is to be yet another delay before anything is done. A year ago we were told that the situation was desperate but still nothing has happened."

DAILY POEM

Bird-Painter

By Penelope Shuttle

The famous bird-painter hobbles by, getting richer every step.

His pet ostrich follows him everywhere, walking on soft white dust.

The early-summer mountains are so beautiful and gawky

but he ignores them, he is not a painter of mountains,

he limps round his garden as if in the salon of Mesmer, his pet bird watching.

The bird-painter closes his eyes, traces his descent

through the maternal line, for was it not

one of his long-ago mothers who told him –

if you must paint, first take singing lessons from the birds.

Penelope Shuttle is one of Oxford University Press's 40 poets under the careful eye of Jacqueline Simms. *Building a City for Jamie*, from which this poem is taken, is her sixth collection, but her output includes radio drama, fiction and non-fiction and includes several books written in collaboration with her husband, the poet Peter Redgrove. On the whole, these are strange landscapes: the growing up of a daughter and the onset of middle-age underpin a collection of precarious visions.

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Yeltsin stages visit to Chechnya

The Russian leader follows his ceasefire coup with a sudden visit, reports Helen Womack

HELEN WOMACK
Moscow

A day after reaching what he called a "historic" peace accord with Chechen separatists in the Kremlin, President Boris Yeltsin yesterday pulled another election rabbit out of the hat, turning up unannounced in the war-ravaged region.

After the heavily stage-managed four-hour visit, he said: "My main impression is that peace has come to this republic not only on paper, but in practice. I have not heard a single shot. This is the main joy for the Chechen people, the federal forces and the whole of Russia."

Mr Yeltsin, aware that the tragedy in Chechnya is a top issue for voters in next month's presidential election, said earlier this month that he would visit Grozny. But aides warned him that he ran a grave risk of being assassinated there.

When the new Chechen leader, Zelimkhan Yandarbiyev, came to Moscow on Monday and agreed on a ceasefire from 1 June, western journalists assumed that Mr Yeltsin would shelve his travel plans. They were therefore taken by surprise when the Interfax News Agency announced at noon that the president had arrived in the Chechen settlement of Pravoberezhnoye and was meeting locals.

The village is in the north of the region, safely in Russian hands. Later, he flew by helicopter to Grozny to speak to soldiers from the 205th Motor Rifle Brigade, but did not venture into the city itself.

"The President has kept his promise and proved that Chechnya is part of Russia," television commented as he showed pictures of Mr Yeltsin standing stiffly by a red, white and blue Russian tricolour as he addressed the servicemen on their parade ground. Not a ruined building or burnt out tank was to be seen.



Weather eye: Two soothsayers will the clouds from the Moscow sky to help create good conditions for Boris Yeltsin's Chechnya talks. Photograph: Reuters

Then, as quickly as he had arrived, he was off again. By five o'clock in the afternoon, Interfax was reporting Mr Yeltsin's return to the military base at Mozdok in neighbouring north Ossetia. While he was away, Mr Yandarbiyev—the successor to Chechnya's assassinated leader General Dzhokhar Dudayev—stayed in Moscow, evidently to guarantee the President's safe return.

Mr Yeltsin used the visit to try to win the hearts and votes of soldiers who have seen their comrades fall in an often incomprehensibly organised military campaign. Altogether, 30,000 have died in a 17-month old conflict which has become

Russia's domestic Afghanistan.

"You have finally won," the President told the troops. "We have defeated the mutinous regime of Dudayev." He acknowledged errors had been made, but justified his original decision to send troops to Chechnya in December 1994. "There was a coup here. Power had been seized by the separatists. In carrying out the task (of recovering control), we could not avoid making some grave mistakes. I am not trying to avoid blame."

The soldiers may or may not have been impressed, but conscripts would have been pleased by his announcement that all young men who had served six

months in "hot-spots" would be allowed to go home early.

As far as Monday's truce with the separatists was concerned, Mr Yeltsin said experts would now try to develop it so that a more comprehensive agreement could be signed at the end of June. He said he was ready to give the region "maximum autonomy" — but "Chechnya is in Russia and nowhere else".

It remains to be seen how Mr Yandarbiyev, who insists on full independence for "Ichkeria" as the Chechens call their mountain homeland, will respond.

The ceasefire deal, agreed in the Kremlin banqueting hall,

was made possible because both sides skirted round the delicate question of Chechnya's future status and concentrated only on silencing the guns. It was welcomed yesterday, more or less sincerely, by almost all Russian politicians, including Mr Yeltsin's communist opponent, Gennady Zyuganov, who has already lost his lead in the opinion polls and now stands to fall further.

Only the extreme nationalist, Vladimir Zhirinovskiy, said what he really thought — that the war would start up again as soon as the election was over — and for once seemed to be making a reasonable comment. Hardliners in the Russian army and mil-

itants among the Chechens may find that it suits them to go on fighting. The Russian defence minister, Pavel Grachev, has sounded lukewarm about ending the war, while Shamil Basayev — the guerrilla who took hundreds of hostages in a Russian hospital last summer — has stayed silent.

Mr Yeltsin's interest in achieving a truce, even if it is only temporary, is clear enough. The motivation of Mr Yandarbiyev, who had vowed to revenge the death of General Dudayev with a holy war, is harder to fathom. But if the fighting starts again, he will at least have had breathing space to regroup his guerrilla forces.

China starts to panic over threat of revolt on frontier

TERESA POOLE
Peking

In August 1949, when the Chinese Communists were close to final victory in China, Mao Zedong invited the Uighur and Kazakh leaders of the self-styled East Turkistan Republic to Peking, supposedly to discuss autonomy for the region. Carved out of the north-west of China's Xinjiang province, bordering what is now Kazakhstan, the foundation of East Turkistan five years earlier had been the defining moment for the nationalist movement in Xinjiang.

The East Turkistan leaders boarded the aeroplane, optimistic about negotiations with Chairman Mao. But the plane mysteriously crashed. Whether by design or accident almost the whole of the republic's leadership was wiped out, and with them the only hope of quasi-independence for Xinjiang's minorities. "Uighur people these days still cry about this ... Young people today still revere the [East Turkistan] leaders," said Justin Rudelson, a specialist on Xinjiang at Tulane University in the United States.

Since 1949, the Turkic-Muslim nationalities of Xinjiang, China's far north-western province, have been ruled with varying degrees of brutality by Peking. The separatist movement has never died, erupting regularly and violently against Han Chinese domination, but it has been quashed by the Chinese authorities. During the past few weeks, however, the authorities have shown unusual alarm over a perceived "splitist" threat in Xinjiang, just as a number of violent incidents, including political assassinations, have come to light.

It is difficult to gauge what is going on in Xinjiang, a vast territory of just 16 million people which accounts for one-sixth of China's land mass. Large areas are closed to foreigners and journalists are unwelcome.

Unlike Tibet there is no powerful lobby group outside China and no figure such as the Dalai Lama to provide information. But, judging by the recent official pronouncements, something is afoot.



During the first week in May, Xinjiang party leaders held a meeting on how to fight separatism. "Local ethnic splitist activities have entered a period of revived dynamism," backed by "hostile" foreign forces, said the *Xinjiang Daily*, the regional party mouthpiece. Subsequent reports revealed that during the last six days of April, 1,700

Loquan, who is Chinese. "We must be aware that Uighur nationalism and illegal religious activities pose the greatest dangers to the stability of Xinjiang," he said.

New regulations require all books on Islam to be published by the Xinjiang People's Publication House. Last week, Peking ordered that "party

'Weapons and Islamic propaganda are coming across the border but it is still only of nuisance value'

suspected "terrorists, separatists and criminals" were arrested in Xinjiang, coinciding with the national "Strike Hard" crackdown on crime.

Then, on 2 May, in Kuqa town, nine alleged Muslim separatists were killed in a shootout with police. They were accused of "bombings, murders and other violent terrorist activities". According to the official accounts, the men were armed with home-made bombs intended for an attack in Kuqa. Two weeks later, in the provincial capital of Urumqi, an activist, Abduwayiti Aihemaiti, was jailed for three years allegedly for writing "reactionary articles" calling for the independence of Xinjiang.

Much official media coverage has been devoted this month to warnings by the headline Xinjiang party secretary, Wang

members and officials ... implicated in political bombings, assassinations or other violent terrorist activities, must be immediately investigated and punished with due severity".

This week there have been reports of six or seven murders by Muslim separatists. Among the victims were a vice-chairman of Xinjiang's political consultative conference, killed at the end of April, and two policemen and a pro-Peking Muslim Imam who were killed in February.

Last year five Muslims were executed for their part in a series of bombings in February 1992 and 19 were convicted for counter-revolutionary activities in Khotan city.

It all suggests that ethnic strife has been suppressed but not tamed. The question is how serious the separatist threat really is, and why officials appear

so worried now. According to most Western analysts, although Uighur nationalism is strong, the separatists backing an armed struggle are a minority. Mr Rudelson said: "There are those who are calling for separatism and independence, but for the most part it is not seen as a sensible thing to try to push."

But there are serious grievances, especially the massive influx of Han Chinese which has made the Uighur people a minority in their own land. Some 38 per cent of Xinjiang's population are now Han Chinese, and 47 per cent Uighur. The rest are Kazakhs, Hui, Kirghis, Mongols and other minorities. "Now a lot of Han are coming in to Xinjiang to make money. It causes a lot of friction," said Mr Rudelson.

The Uighurs resent the way Peking has exploited Xinjiang's vast oil reserves, with little benefit for the local population. "China views Xinjiang as a natural resource deposit; it is a storehouse for extraction," said Mr Rudelson.

The oil companies do not even hire local labour, preferring immigrant Han. Xinjiang remains one of the poorest parts of China and is used as China's nuclear test site. It is also host to a large number of Chinese convicts in numerous labour camps.

Professor Junc Teufel Dreyer, at the University of Miami, who studies China's ethnic minorities, believes the crackdown may be tied to Peking's recent border agreements with Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Tajikistan. After seeing the emergence of these new Muslim republics, Peking fears cross-border links with Uighur nationalists in these states. "There is infiltration of weapons and Islamic fundamentalist propaganda," said Ms Dreyer. But she judges the Uighur threat to Peking as "mainly of nuisance value at the moment".

Peking, however, has considered desperate measures. According to Ms Dreyer, in 1990 they were willing to arm Han Chinese convicts in labour camps in the event of an Uighur uprising.

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international

Polls give Peres slim lead over rival

PATRICK COCKBURN
Jerusalem

As Israelis go to the polls today Shimon Peres, the Prime Minister, is just 3 per cent ahead of Benjamin Netanyahu, his right-wing rival, in an election which is seen as crucial to the future of peace negotiations with the Palestinians.

The polls confirm that it is very unlikely that Labour, its left-wing ally Meretz and the Arab parties will win a majority in the Knesset as they did in the last election in 1992. They are more likely to win no more

The Israeli elections are underlining that the country is deeply divided over the peace agreement with the Palestinians

than 57 seats in the 120-seat parliament.

Although Mr Peres, if he is re-elected, will claim that Israel has endorsed the Oslo accords and his agreements with the Palestinians, the elections are underlining that Israel is deeply divided over the peace agreement. In 1992 Yitzhak Rabin, the prime minister assassinated last November, promised peace talks.

Although three main polls show almost identical results, and few voters remain undecided, Mr Peres' lead is so narrow that commentators are refusing to predict the outcome. In the aftermath of the television debate between the two party leaders on Sunday there was a sense that Mr Netanyahu was building up momentum.

The slight increase in Mr Netanyahu's support may also come from ultra-orthodox Jews. He is reported to have reached an agreement with Agudat Israel, one of their parties, to build more houses and meet a

number of religious demands, including the closure of a major road during the Sabbath.

The final polls show that Labour will get 39 to 41 seats in the next Knesset compared to 44 in 1992, and its left-wing ally Meretz, nine or 10 seats instead of 12. The Arab parties, Russian immigrants and a Labour splinter group against withdrawing from the Golan are all expected to make gains. A majority of Jews will vote against Mr Peres but he will hope for wholehearted support from Israeli-Arabs. The Prime Minister has 45 days to form a government.

For the first time Israelis will cast two ballots, one for the prime minister and one for the Knesset. The aim of the reform was to weaken the bargaining power of the religious parties but it is not clear that this will happen. Some 3.9 million people are eligible to vote and 80 per cent are expected to do so. The whole country is treated as a single constituency and a party must get more than 1.5 per cent of the total vote to elect a member to the Knesset. The polls open at 7am and close at 10pm. Results in the past have usually been close and exit polls taken by television stations have often proved an inaccurate guide to the outcome.

In the last three months the West Bank and Gaza have largely been sealed off from Israel as the government tried to prevent another suicide bomb before polling day. Some 24,000 troops and police will be on duty today. The assassination of Yitzhak Rabin led to a revision against Mr Netanyahu and the right. This led Mr Peres to hold the election six months earlier than he needed, but his own standing was badly damaged by suicide bombs in Israel in February and March which killed 63 people.

Mr Netanyahu said yesterday that if he were elected prime minister he would refuse to discuss the future of Jerusalem with Palestinians despite the agreement by Israel to do so under the Oslo accords. He told the daily *Ha'aretz*: "It is a clause on their agenda and not ours. If they raise the issue, I will drop it. I will not respect any agreement regarding Jerusalem." Likud has repeatedly claimed during the campaign that Mr Peres will divide Jerusalem.



View from below: An Israeli woman begs in front of campaign posters which read 'Forbidden to vote for Peres. Don't let Arabs determine the fate of Israel' Photograph: Reuters

PM's tired words seemed to mean little

PATRICK COCKBURN
Jerusalem

My father once invented a game which involved thinking up entirely meaningless national proverbs. This is more difficult to do than it sounds. If there is any meaning at all you cannot score. He won it once with the fine old Norwegian saying: "The tree is taller than the highest wave."

It is a game that Shimon Peres, the Israeli prime minister, would be good at, judging by some of his recent nuggets. Speaking of the next stage of talks with the Palestinians, he said: "It's better to have a partner without a plan than a partner with a partner." Asked about the purpose of operation Grapes of Wrath - the Israeli intervention in Lebanon last

month which killed 200 people - he explained helpfully: "The operation had motives, but not goals."

Some of his sayings are not exactly meaningless, but sound tired and contrived. On the future of the Middle East, Mr Peres said: "The youth in Syria and Iran will tell their leaders: 'you are busy with photo opportunities, but we want a photo opportunity.'" The prime minister has even written a book called *The New Middle East*. Its main conclusion, says historian Ilan Pappé, "is that it's high time that Europe allowed Israel to join the European Union as a full member."

Journalists and politicians laughed just once as they watched the one-and-only TV debate of the campaign between Mr Peres and Benjamin

Netanyahu, the right wing candidate, on close circuit television last Sunday.

Mr Netanyahu repeated endlessly that thanks to Mr Peres, Israelis live in fear. Inevitably, he was asked about his admission of adultery three years ago on television and his claim that political opponents were blackmailing him with a video showing him with his girlfriend.

"It hurt me, it hurt my wife, it hurt my family, it was a mistake," began Mr Netanyahu's pious reply, but then - just a shade too quickly to carry conviction - he added that the mistakes made by Mr Peres "hurt the whole people of Israel." Just for a moment, says columnist Nahum Barnea, the absurdity of the comparison between the failings of Mr Netanyahu's sex life and the errors in the Oslo

Syria sees Labour victory as only chance for peace

Beirut - "He who claims that it is possible to achieve peace and security while keeping the Golan and other Arab lands is calling for war, not for peace." According to the official news agency Sana, those were the exact words of Farouk al-Sharaa, the Syrian Foreign Minister. And so, after months of claiming that Shimon Peres and Benjamin Netanyahu were as bad as each other, Syria, it seemed, had at last decided to support the Israeli Labour Prime Minister in today's election.

The conclusion may be a little trite - Mr Peres has hedged his promises on Golan and is already announcing that there will be no dismantling of Jewish settlements on occupied Arab land and no chance that any part of Jerusalem will be a Palestinian capital - and Mr al-Sharaa's words might be addressed to both contenders in the Israeli election. But it was difficult to dismiss the idea that Syria would be happier with Mr Peres than Mr Netanyahu. A policy of holding onto the occupied Golan Heights, Mr al-Sharaa maintained, "will for sure destroy all chances of peace in the region and no Arab anywhere can deal with such a policy."

The minister was speaking at a Damascus press conference after a meeting with Farouk al-Kaddoumi, the Palestine Liberation Organisation's dissident "foreign minister" who long ago condemned Yasser Arafat's peace agreement with Israel as an act of treachery. His message may therefore have been addressed to Palestinians as much as to the rest of the Arab world.



ROBERT FISK

In effect, however, Mr al-Sharaa was telling the Israelis - and the Americans - that only Mr Peres' re-election will enable the already crumbling "peace process" to survive.

How this will play in Israel is anyone's guess. With the tiniest lead in the opinion polls, Mr Peres cannot expect to gain more Israeli votes with a last minute call to "Vote for Peres - the man the Syrians trust". Nor, after the debacle of Israel's latest Lebanese adventure - which ended in the bloodbath of civilians at the UN camp at Qana - will Mr Peres wish to remind Israelis of his most recent brush with Syria's Hizbollah allies. Indeed, he may prefer to reflect upon the official Syrian line, espoused in Monday's official Damascus daily *Al-Baath*, that neither he nor Mr Netanyahu stood for the achievement of a just peace in the Middle East.

The [televised] debate on Sunday [between Peres and Netanyahu] made it crystal clear that there is no difference between them regarding the peace process since they both confirmed the continued occupation of Jerusalem and that their position on the Golan Heights was the same," the newspaper said. "The Israeli leaders... direct-

ed most of their attention at electoral gains which would be achieved at the expense of the Arabs and their rights."

Ever since the April bombardment which Mr Peres unleashed on Lebanon - and which the Arabs interpreted as a cynical election ploy rather than a response to the Hizbollah's puny rocket attacks in retaliation for the death of a Lebanese boy - there has been growing suspicion that Syria would be content with a Likud victory in today's election. Since the United States is evidently unwilling to ensure a just peace or restrain Israel - so the theory goes - then the only way to break Israel's power is by weakening its links with Washington; and how better to do that than by forcing the Americans into bed with an Israel controlled by Likud politicians who have no interest in peace with the Arabs?

This may well be the view of that crusty old maverick, Muammar Gaddafi, who vouchsafed the view at a Cairo university lecture on Monday that the Israeli artillery assault, which killed up to 200 Lebanese civilians, was staged solely to ensure Mr Peres' re-election. "Are we going to offer our children as a human sacrifice every four years for the Israeli and American elections?" the Libyan leader asked. The official Libyan government newspaper *Al-Jamahiriyah* - an organ of such stunning boredom that few Libyan officials can stand to read it - announced that the Arabs would be the only losers in the Israeli election and that Labour and Likud represented "only the double gates of Hell".

campaign manager, who said he wanted a "boring campaign". He argued that Labour was well ahead in the polls and could coast to victory.

Mr Ramon, rated one of the cleverest politicians in Israel, is probably being diverted by his long-running rivalry with Ehud Barak, the Foreign Minister. Both men would like to succeed the 72-year-old Mr Peres. Mr Barak is Mr Peres' personal campaign manager in the race for the prime minister's office. Despite this, Mr Ramon reportedly refused to show him Labour's TV commercials before they were screened.

In the dying hours of the campaign, stickers and posters have been going up across Israel declaring: "Only Netanyahu. It's good for the Jews." They are being put there by Habad, an

ultra-orthodox group closely identified with the right. The slogan is being denounced as racist because it implies that Mr Peres depends on the votes of the Israeli-Arabs for victory.

It is not the first time Mr Peres has been the target of an ultra-orthodox attack. He almost formed a government in 1990, but needed the votes of some ultra-orthodox members of the Knesset. Success hinged upon the views of 92-year-old Rabbi Eliezer Menachem Schach, one of their leaders. Unfortunately, Rabbi Schach had been told that Labour kibbutzniks were in the habit of eating rabbit, which is forbidden under Jewish dietary law. He refused his support and Mr Peres's bid for power failed.

Patrick Cockburn

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Estonia seeks shelter from icy Eastern wind

ADRIAN BRIDGE
Tallinn

Among the many carefully framed maps adorning the walls of the Estonian President Lennart Meri's Tallinn study, one in particular catches the eye. It depicts the Baltic region in the 17th century when the Swedes were at the height of their power and when the boundaries of Estonia stretched far inside what is today Russia. "It is a wonderful map, but I always try to stand in front of it whenever the Russian ambassador comes to visit," jokes Mr Meri.

Joking apart, much of Mr Meri's time is spent thinking about the almost permanently strained relations between Moscow and Tallinn and about how - and whether - they can ever be repaired. There does not, he concedes, appear to be any immediate prospect of a thaw. Indeed, in the run up to next month's presidential election in Russia, Estonia seems to have been transformed into a whipping boy for Russian politicians anxious to prove their nationalist credentials, a prime target for Moscow's ire.

Quite apart from the usual objections over what it terms human-rights violations against ethnic Russians living in Estonia, Moscow recently claimed it had evidence that members of a volunteer defence force in Estonia had been selling arms to the IRA. Shortly afterwards, the two countries were plunged into a mini version of the spy row between Russia and Britain, which ended with both Moscow and Tallinn expelling one diplomat apiece.

"In any election campaign one must always be careful to

separate the electoral rhetoric from the real political substance," Mr Meri says. "But there is no doubt that there has been a sharp increase in the level of hostility coming from Russian politicians towards the Baltic states and especially Estonia."

While Estonian defence officials quickly denied the IRA arms sales charges, many in Tallinn interpreted them as yet another attempt to damage Estonia's international image. As the most economically successful of the three Baltic states, some even saw the move as a deliberate attempt to deter the many western firms seeking to join those who have already invested here.

Mr Meri puts it more diplomatically. "We are a small state, but in our five years of independence we have successfully established a parliamentary system and built a free market economy," he says. "We have been able to do things that Russia has not been able to do. Somehow that undermines the prestige of the Russian leadership. And that is the real reason why Russia has invested so much effort in trying to show Estonia in an appalling light."

Mr Meri personally has good reason to feel wary of Moscow. As an 11-year-old boy, he experienced the annexation of his country by Stalin's Red Army in 1940 and then, one year later, faced the horror of deportation to Siberia - a fate shared by tens of thousands of his countrymen.

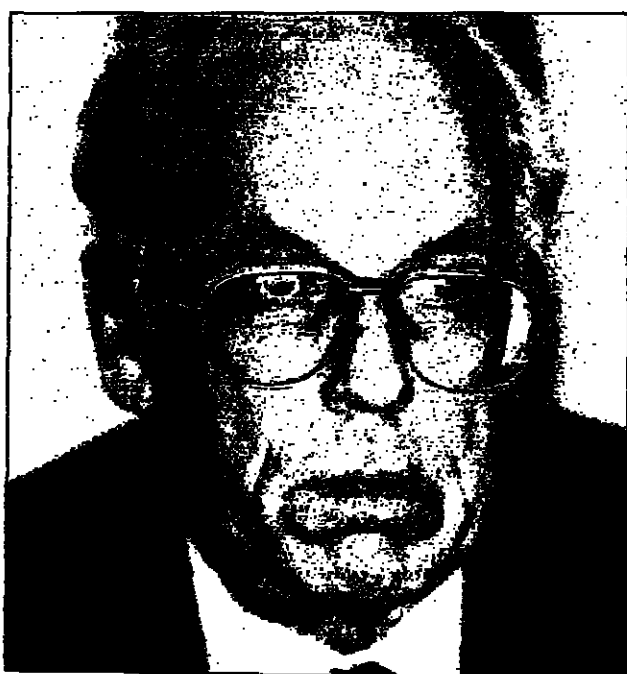
In his eagerness to ensure that nothing like it could ever happen again, Mr Meri has become one of the most ardent champions of Estonia's drive to join the European Union and,

above all, Nato. A well read and travelled man, the Estonian President, now 67, has long since made his mark in the international arena as someone who brings a refreshing new perspective and tone to the EU and Nato enlargement debates.

When Nato originally proposed its Partnership for Peace programme in 1993, he compared it to a used bottle of Chanel perfume: "Nice to look at, but empty". On suggestions that, given the strength of Russian opposition, the Baltic states might have to accept something less than full Nato membership, he once famously quipped: "Security is like virginity: you're either a virgin or you are not. You either have security or you don't."

In a couple of hard-hitting speeches in Brussels recently, Mr Meri castigated western officials for showing too much caution over admitting new members from the east. Declaring that the "dream of Europe is fading", he accused the West of "failing to take a full breath of the winds of change in central Europe: all it has done is smell them cautiously, as you would chemicals."

One look out of the window towards Russia and the east reminds him of the scale of the problems facing Estonia, the smallest of the three Baltic states with a population of just 1.5 million. "In 1991 there was a tremendous wave of idealism in Russia but the west somehow took it for granted that democracy would spread to it, rather like a meteorological phenomenon, of its own accord. We lost a lot of valuable time in which we could have helped the Russians implement a genuinely democratic society."

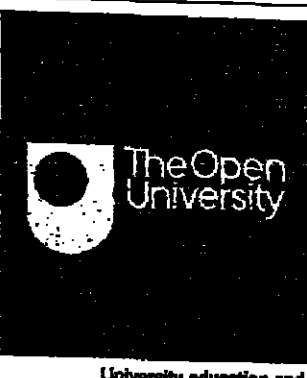


Lennart Meri of Estonia

Photograph: Sportsphoto

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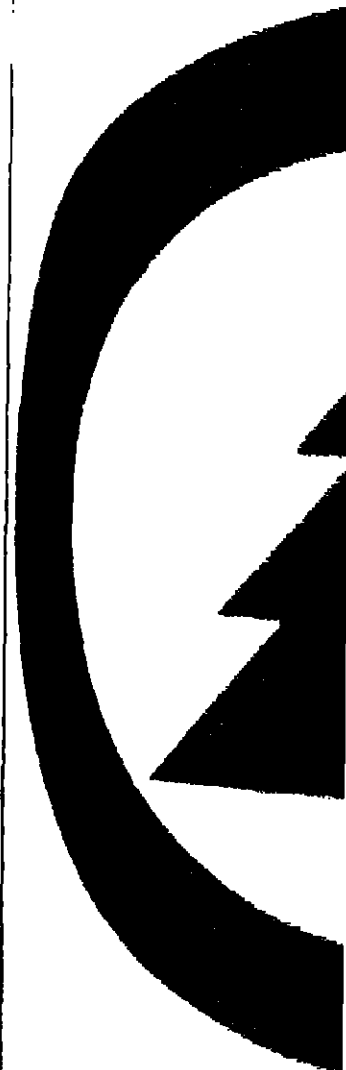
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India bundles out PM after 12 days in office

Hindu nationalists set record for shortest-lived government since 1947, writes **Tim McGirk**

New Delhi - India's shortest-lived government in recent history fell yesterday, 12 days after Atal Behari Vajpayee, leader of the Hindu nationalists, took office.

Mr Vajpayee resigned yesterday rather than face a humiliating no-confidence motion in the New Delhi parliament which would have revealed that his Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) government was nearly 100 seats short of the 272 seats needed for a majority.

The Hindu nationalists had watered down their mix of religion and politics, but their last-minute concessions to India's 120 million Muslims failed to win over any MPs. The BJP may be India's largest party, but its Hindu chauvinism has scared away many of the smaller regional parties Mr Vajpayee so desperately sought.

During a two-day scolding of the opposition parties in the Lok Sabha (lower house of parliament), Mr Vajpayee, 69, a gentle poet and statesman, declared: "I have an aversion to the kind of politics that is being practised today. I want to quit politics, but politics will not quit me." Soon after, Mr Vajpayee pushed his way through a crowd of BJP supporters gathered outside the bull-shaped parliament and delivered his resignation to the Indian President, Shankar Dayal Sharma. Mr Vajpayee's term was the shortest of any prime minister in India's 49 years of independence.

With no party close to approaching a majority, the President may turn next to the second-placed Congress Party of Narasimha Rao. But a Congress spokesman said Mr Rao

would refuse the offer and instead give his backing to a centre-left coalition known as the United Front. With Congress and the far-left parties backing this coalition from outside, the United Front's leader, Deve Gowda, may be ready to form a government by tomorrow.

The United Front may last longer in office than Mr Vajpayee did, but not a single political observer in New Delhi is willing to bet that Mr Gowda serves his full five years. Some



Gowda: May be ready to form government tomorrow

observers predict that the United Front may fall apart within months or even weeks.

The United Front - 13 parties lumped together for the single purpose of driving the BJP out of power - can easily come unstuck now that Mr Vajpayee is out. The leftists, regional and lower-caste parties within the front are missing any common thread.

The United Front may also be missing a strong leader. Mr Gowda, 63, is the coalition's third choice, after a former prime minister, Vishwanath Pratap Singh, and Jyoti Basu,

the Communist leader, both looked at the odds facing a United Front government and swiftly refused. Able and reputedly honest, Mr Gowda is unknown outside his native state, Karnataka, where he served as chief minister.

A farmer and a vegetarian, he portrays himself as a simple man, preferring roadside curries to New Delhi's posh hotels. Like many other Indian politicians, Mr Gowda leans heavily on pet astrologers. No stargazer, though, could have foreseen the bizarre twist of events that led to him becoming a potential prime minister. He will be India's first prime minister who does not speak Hindi; his native language is Kannada. Mr Gowda is also one of the few lower-caste Hindus elevated to the premiership.

Most prime ministers have belonged either to the priestly Brahmin caste or the Kshatriya warrior caste.

What might make Mr Gowda's government more durable than the BJP's is his moderation. He will press ahead with the economic reforms, started by the Congress, which knocked the 40-year-old rust off India's socialist economy. Mr Gowda's first task will be to choose who, among the 13 parties in the coalition, are given the key ministerial portfolios. Everyone, it seems, is fighting for the finance and home ministries.

Mr Gowda met last night with the President, who is expected to give him a month before proving his majority in the Lok Sabha. In these tumultuous times of Indian politics, anything could happen by then. In an impasse, the Hindu nationalists are likely to push for mid-term polls.



Hot issue: BJP supporters in Bombay burning a flag in effigy of the rival United Front, expected to form the next administration

Photograph: AP

Conscription drummed out as France gets professional

IAN PHILLIPS
Paris

The French President, Jacques Chirac, yesterday announced the end of obligatory national service for the country's youth. It will be replaced from the end of next year by voluntary service and a compulsory "citizen's rendez-vous" - a short period

during which health and academic checks will be carried out and classes given about France's defence.

The decision is the result of three months of consultations, which followed Mr Chirac's speech in February in which he called for the introduction of a professional army over the next six years. Numbers in the mil-

itary will be reduced by 25 per cent to 30 per cent, prompting Mr Chirac to say "we shall no longer need conscripts".

At first the "rendez-vous" will apply to young men aged 18 to 20 and any women who choose to take part.

From 2002 it will become compulsory for both sexes. It is seen as an extension of the pre-

sent "three days", during which potential conscripts undergo health and psychological tests. The aim is to reinforce national pride and to give the government sufficient knowledge about the country's youth if an international crisis forced conscription to be reintroduced.

Philippe Séguin, the parliamentary leader, said it would

"give young French people the chance to accomplish a positive act at least once in their life and to mark their adherence and attachment to their country".

Those who opt to carry out voluntary service will have three options: a "defence and security" service in either the armed forces or the police; "social action" in humanitari-

an associations or in social administrations and an overseas service. The duration of this voluntary service will vary from 10 to 18 months.

Not everyone is in favour of the plans. The leader of the right-wing UDF party, François Léotard, has advocated that conscription should be maintained, because it is "the last

means of integration for many young people".

The leader of the Socialist Party, Lionel Jospin, believes that the proposed "rendez-vous" will not be sufficient to maintain the links between the people and the army.

A bill to implement the changes is to be tabled in parliament in autumn.



Jacques Chirac: Consultations



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Lady Margaret Douglas-Home

Margaret Douglas-Home was a great enabler of young musicians through her work with the Burnham Market Festival, in Norfolk, which she founded in 1974, when she was already in her late sixties, and directed for the next 18 years. At Burnham she provided a platform for a host of performers who have gone on to make their names internationally, including the pianist Roger Vogles and the opera singers Felicity Lott and Judith Howarth.

Douglas-Home originally started the festival to raise money for repairs for Burnham Westgate, a typical flint north Norfolk church, set at the end of the green in the picturesque Georgian village of Burnham Market. But the concerts were from the first not just a good cause - they have contributed to the village school and all five churches in the neighbouring villages of Burnham Thorpe and Burnham Market - but an artistic success, becoming fully professional soon after they were started.

The contemporary composer most closely associated with the festival is Richard Rodney Bennett. For one festival, he wrote - and joined in performing - a version for four hands at the piano of his waltz from the film *Murder on the Orient Express*. For the 21st festival, in 1994, he dedicated to Margaret Douglas-Home a song sequence, *The History of The Damsel*, of three poems by his sister Meg Peacock. The songs have since been performed in London, at the Wigmore Hall, when the score was formally presented to Douglas-Home.

A typical Burnham programme, performed at weekends in August, largely by young musicians - Douglas-Home was for many years on the board of the Royal College of Music - includes a broad mix of chamber music, jazz, literary evenings, and small orchestral concerts. In 1986, Sir Neville Martin brought his Academy of St

Martin in the Fields to Burnham to play a concert as a memorial to Margaret Douglas-Home's younger son, Charles, editor of the *Times* and a devoted musical enthusiast, who had died of cancer the previous year.

Margaret Douglas-Home had a very direct approach to music, which was born out in her playing at the piano, which was both up-tempo and involved. I remember the first time she accompanied me - we were rehearsing a Mozart song for a family concert - and she started me by the pace at which she launched the second, quicker, section; and knew at once that she was right and that my teacher and I had been rehearsing at quite the wrong speed. She was as much at home in an after-dinner performance of "Smoke Gets In Your Eyes" as she was in a trio by Schumann, and up until her 90th year, after several years of being slowed up by emphysema, she was still receiving lessons, and tackling a new piece by Shostakovich.

The last public record of her as a performer is of her playing "Ain't Misbehavin'" and Viennese salon music at her family house, Althorp, in Northamptonshire, for a television documentary which was prompted by her autobiographical volume *A Spencer Childhood* (1994) and which it is hoped will be broadcast in the near future.



Lady Margaret Spencer aged 28

She was born Margaret Spencer in 1906, the sixth and youngest child of Bobbie Spencer, later sixth Earl Spencer, and Margaret Baring, the modest, warm-hearted and unconventional daughter of the first Lord Revelstoke, the banker.

It was from the Baring side that Margaret Spencer took her musical lead. Her mother was the favourite sister in a talented brood that included the novelist and Russophile Maurice Baring and the two eldest boys, John and Cecil, successively second and third Baron Revelstoke, who turned the fortunes of the family bank around after the great crash of 1890 over which their father had presided. Margaret Baring played the violin to the highest amateur standard, encouraged by her mother, Emily Revelstoke, who was herself a first-rate fiddler and who befriended the leading musicians of the day, including the violinist Madame Neruda, the cellist and composer Alfredo Piatti and the towering Clara Schumann - enormously influential as both a teacher and a pianist - all of whom performed in private concerts at the Barings' house in London.

In later life, Margaret Douglas-Home felt this tradition very strongly, even though she had not been able to take it on first hand from her mother, who, already weakened by influenza, had become ill after giving birth to Margaret, and died two days later. The young Margaret's godmother was the Queen, formerly Princess Alexandra, who 20 years previously had gone to help Clara Schumann play at Emily Revelstoke's house in London, a house where Margaret Douglas-Home herself played in 1989.

One poignant product of her mother's death was that in her youth Margaret had usually to spend her birthday without her father, who on the week marking the anniversary of his wife's

death spent much of his time visiting her grave at Althorp and was too moved by grief to spend time with his youngest daughter. Margaret Douglas-Home described this aspect of her childhood in a perfectly achieved article she produced for *Country Life* in July 1981, the month that her great-niece Diana Spencer was married to the Prince of Wales.

The character of the article is to be found again in her *A Spencer Childhood*, a delightful, freshly expressed picture of the childhood she spent between Althorp, Spencer House, in London, and a shooting box at North Creak, near Falkenberg, in Norfolk. Her brothers and sisters were much older than her and away from home, and she had no Spencer cousins. She describes how the family musical tradition came to her through her mother's nieces, two sets of sisters: the talented Margaret and Victoria Reid, both fine string players (Victoria's son Leonard Ingram is the founder and director of the opera festival held each summer at his house Garsington, near Oxford), and Daphne and Cypso Baring. The Barings sisters were beautiful, she wrote,

and different from all the others, even their mother's knitting was unlike the other aunts'. I knew that the girls' frocks were bought at Larvin, and it always worried me that when they arrived on foot for tea, they peeled off their white woolly knickers and laid them on the Larvin coats. It was their mother who made them different - she was American (Maudie Leitch, daughter of a New York tobacco magnate), beautifully turned out and wonderful to look at. Their drawing-room was painted royal blue, exotic and novel compared to our 'soft white' one. Their musical parties had taste and expertise.

With the Reids and the Barings Margaret studied with the Williams brothers - remarkable teachers of strings - and played in family chamber ensembles whose hand-written programmes she preserved in her scrapbooks.

She studied first in England,

piano and violin, and then, after her father's death in 1922, when she was 16, in Paris. She returned to London when she was 18 for her coming-out dance at Spencer House, and studied with the Williams brothers at the Royal College of Music, in London, where both her sisters, Delia Peel and Lavinia Annaly, had been pupils.

In February 1928 the second eldest of her three brothers, Cecil, a naval officer, was thrown from a pony at a polo match in Malta, and suffered a fractured skull. She and her sister Lavinia set off on the long air journey via Italy and reached the island, where their uncle Maurice Baring was by chance visiting, three days before Cecil died. He was buried at sea from his ship *HMS Queen Elizabeth*, and their uncle Maurice penned an elegy, which ends:

The wreaths thrown over the side
Drifted upon the tide
And sank
And now the band
With pipe and clarion
And the quick step summoned
every hand

To carry on.
She was married in 1931 to the ornithologist Henry Douglas-Home, brother of Alec, the future prime minister, and the playwright William Douglas-Home. They set up house in Fyngal, north-west London, and had two sons and a daughter; the marriage was dissolved in 1947.

During the Second World War, Margaret Douglas-Home worked with Kenneth Clark in the Publications Department of the National Gallery and went into publishing with Herbert ("Bertie") van Thal, in London, as Home and van Thal. After the Second World War she and her children lived in a Lutyns cottage on the Knebworth estate, in Hertfordshire, before moving to London in 1953.

Since 1946 she and her children had taken family holidays in the part of Norfolk near North Creak that she had grown to love as a child. In



A very direct approach to music: Douglas-Home in 1958

about 1960 she moved to the area permanently, to Burnham Market. In her first house in the village, Timmers, she set up an antique shop which she ran until the advent of VAT made its administration an extra burden, and played in local musical groups.

When she stepped down as director of the Burnham Market Festival in 1992, and handed over to Jenni Wake-Walker,

wife of her great-nephew David Wake-Walker, the Lady Margaret Douglas-Home Trust was set up with the object of promoting young musicians, partly but not exclusively by sponsoring their concerts; but also, in the future, through bursaries and grants for purchasing instruments.

Margaret Douglas-Home's last literary enterprise was her work on a biography of her an-

cestor Georgiana Poyntz, wife of the first Earl Spencer and mother of the more celebrated Georgiana Spencer, Duchess of Devonshire. The grounding for this assemblage of fascinating diaries and letters was the work that Margaret's brother Jack, seventh Earl Spencer, had done in the muniments room at Althorp, where, helped by his assistant Miss Finch, he laboured for years in sorting the family correspondence which has provided an invaluable archive to researchers into the famous Spencer collection of family portraits.

In her own picture of Georgiana Poyntz, Margaret Douglas-Home showed all sorts of intelligent insights, deriving from an easy sympathy with her subject. Sadly, she did not keep her health long enough to see the text into a finished form for publication.

Living for close on nine decades, Margaret Douglas-Home had become something of a survivor, one of the last of her generation in her extensive family, who had to bear not just a motherless childhood and her brother Cecil's death but also surviving both her sons (her elder son, Robin, died in 1968). But despite these losses, she was someone in whom it was difficult to trace self-pity; not in the energy with which she pursued her life; not in her bright eyes set above high cheekbones, and least of all in her characteristic, slightly hoarse, laugh. A laugh that seemed to come right from her diaphragm and which emerged between almost every other sentence that she spoke.

Louis Jebb

Alexandra Margaret Elizabeth Spencer, musician, writer, publisher: born London 4 July 1906; *Director, Burnham Market Festival 1974-92*; married 1931 Henry Douglas-Home (died 1980); one daughter, and two sons deceased; marriage dissolved 1947; died Wells-next-the-Sea, Norfolk 26 May 1996.

Capt Mike Harvey RN

Mike Harvey was one of the two "Ghosts" of Colditz. While their German captors thought they had both escaped, they remained concealed in the castle for almost a year.

When eventually Harvey was caught just outside the castle walls, the German High Command in Berlin refused to believe the story of the "Ghosts" and insisted that, after escaping the previous year, Harvey and his compatriot must have returned to the castle of their own accord. The camp Kommandant, who was not always in tune with the High Command, was most indignant at the suggestion. "What do they think this place is?" he asked. "A damned hotel, where people come and go as they wish?"

At the outbreak of the Second World War Mike Harvey found himself as First Lieutenant of HM Submarine *Undine*. Shortly afterwards this submarine was ordered to patrol the area in the German Bight which dominates the access to the Spie Canal and the Skagerrak which forms the entrance to the Baltic.

There, *Undine* was to operate in a zone which was continuously under surveillance from enemy air forces, and in waters which proved to be so shallow that they were barely safe for submarine operations. In addition it was known that the sea-bed was laid with a multitude of electronic loops which could locate enemy submarines.

At a crucial point of the patrol *Undine* was presented with an inviting target of an enemy transport, at which she fired a torpedo. Unfortunately this act gave her position away and the submarine was soon detected by a German surface patrol. On 7

January 1940, 20 miles off Helgoland, *Undine* was subjected to a fierce depth-charge attack, and in this shallow water there was no escape. *Undine* was blown to the surface, where, surrounded by coastal vessels and armed trawlers, she suffered continued attack. The submarine was already in a sinking condition and the crew was ordered to scuttle and abandon ship. They opened the sea-cocks and vented the diving tanks. As she sank a sailor who was unable to swim was in trouble, and it was Harvey's action which saved his life, for which he was subsequently awarded the Royal Humane Society Certificate and Bronze Medal.

Together with the surviving crew, Harvey was picked up by the German navy and they were made prisoners of war. His first permanent camp was the Kriegsmarine prison of Marlag and Milag Nord at Sandborstel. It was from this camp that Harvey made his first escape attempt, which involved the exchange of identities with a seaman in the adjacent compound. But the plan went wrong and as a result in the autumn of 1942 he was expelled as an escapee and troublemaker, and became one of those of a group of 16 other officers who were sent to Colditz Castle - the home of the "bad boys".

Here he took on his remarkable role. In April 1943 there was an escape attempt but although it went wrong the Germans suspected that some prisoners might have got away. True to their suspicions, the ensuing rollcall the Germans found that two officers were missing: Lt Mike Harvey RN and his friend

Ft Lt Jack Best RAF. The Germans accepted that they had escaped; but in fact they were never caught. That was not surprising, because they were both still in the castle.

Harvey and Best were in hiding day and night for nearly a year. In the meantime, they could provide "cover" for any of their comrades who escaped by appearing on rollcall in their place to give them a chance to get well clear of the castle before they were found to be missing. At the same time it did not stop either of them from taking part in any of the multitude of escape activities going on in the castle.

The spell was only broken when Harvey was caught trying to escape himself. It came as a great shock to his captors when his identity was re-established. Harvey's stint as a "Ghost" had been a long, dedicated task, a self-sacrificing crusade for the benefit of others. He had been a "Ghost" for 352 days. The Germans had to decide what manner of charge they should bring against him. It was a difficult case, for he could not be charged for escaping when he had not even left the castle. But in true Teutonic style they found the answer. He was charged with being absent from 1,326 rollcalls, including three *Gestapo Appells*, for which he was sentenced to 28 days' solitary confinement. He remained in Colditz until the castle was relieved by American forces at the end of the war.

Mike Harvey was born in 1913 and joined Dartmouth Naval College in 1927. After qualifying, he served with the China station, before joining the submarine service.

After the war he continued



Harvey: "What do they think this place is? A damned hotel?"

to serve in the Navy as a regular officer, first in a cruiser in the West Indies, then in the rank of Lieutenant-Commander he was appointed captain of the frigate *HMS St Austell Bay*. After his promotion to the rank of Commander he took up an appointment at the Boys' Training Establishment HMS *St Vincent*. This was followed by a Naval Staff Course. After he had been promoted Captain in 1954, he was appointed Commanding Officer of the Royal Naval Air Station HMS *Blackcap*. He retired from the Navy in 1957 and joined the manufacturing company Glyward International. He served with Glyward for the next 18 years, becoming managing director of one of its subsidiaries until his final retirement in 1975.

Harvey was a keen yachtsman and for three or four seasons after retirement he made extensive cruises in the Baltic in his own sailing cruiser.

He played a very substantial part in establishing the organisation called "The Norfolk Boat" of which he became the Chairman, and together with the Ocean Youth Club they bought a 73ft sailing yacht, named it *The Spirit of Bodicea*, and provided her for the benefit and enjoyment of youth organisations, with a Norfolk priority.

B. Rowland

Edward Michael Harvey, naval officer: born 29 September 1913; married 1946 June Simpson (one son, three daughters); died Langham, Norfolk 17 May 1996.

Duncan Stewart

Duncan Stewart will be remembered with affection and admiration for the many roles he filled so well in the academic world.

He was born in New Zealand in 1930 into an academic family. During the Depression his father became a schoolteacher, and was appointed headmaster of a Presbyterian secondary school in a remote part of western New Zealand. From there Duncan was sent off to boarding school, and then attended Canterbury University College (as it then was) where he obtained first class honours first in French, and then a year later in Latin. He came to Queen's College, Oxford, in 1953 as a Rhodes Scholar, adding another First in Modern Languages two years later.

It was common practice in those days to appoint university lecturers very young, and for Oxford to retain its own graduates. Following this pattern, he was immediately appointed to Wadham College, where in 1957, as another single young male stranger in Britain, I first experienced Duncan Stewart's generous hospitality and cheerful company, hallmarks of his character.

Along with caring for generations of Wadham students, and pursuing his own research, as time passed he became increasingly involved in academic administration, not because of a desire for power, but rather because of a wish to ensure that things ran smoothly and effectively. He was elected by his colleagues to the General Board of the Faculty of the University of Oxford, which is responsible for the internal academic management of the university, in 1972, and for two

years was its chairman. In 1979 he was elected Principal of Lady Margaret Hall, thus becoming the first male head of a former women's college.

Lady Margaret Hall was founded in 1878 as the first "academic hall" for women in Oxford. The battle for the acceptance of women into Oxford was fought long and hard, with the five women's colleges only being granted full collegiate status by the university in 1959; and Stewart became Principal just one year after the college voted to admit men as junior and senior members, and just five years after the first group of men's colleges (including Wadham) became coeducational.

Change in Oxford normally happens very slowly, and the rapid transition from single-sex to mixed colleges was not without controversy. It fell to Duncan Stewart to move Lady Margaret Hall through difficult times, there being less than unanimous support for many of the changes. The opportunities open to female academics, for example, were felt by some to be under threat, and as numbers



Stewart: firmness of purpose

of male fellows grew to be sufficient for a male majority on the governing body of the college it was seen as confirmation that such fears were justified. His ability to combine firmness of purpose with tact and sensitivity when dealing with individuals was regularly put to the test. He retired last year from the principality after 16 years.

Alongside his college activities, Stewart continued to be involved in the administration of the university, serving on several central boards and councils. As chairman of the Libraries Board he participated in at least one of the many partially successful attempts to rationalise library arrangements, and his non-confrontational style was a great asset in meeting such challenges of change.

Hospitality at the lodgings at "LMH" followed the same hospitable pattern set in his youth: excellent food, generally prepared by his wife Valerie, was accompanied by wines selected with great skill by Duncan, one of his many pleasures. He planned to spend a good deal of retirement time in their French house, where Duncan hoped to read deeply in the French literature he so much admired and enjoyed. Unfortunately that time together has been denied them.

Clark Brundin

Duncan Montgomery Stewart, university administrator: born Christchurch, New Zealand 14 February 1930; Lecturer, Wadham College, Oxford 1955, Fellow 1956-79; Principal, Lady Margaret Hall, Oxford 1979-95; married 1961 Valerie Boileau (one son, one daughter); died Oxford 22 May 1996.

Paul Sood

Paul Sood was a man who attracted affection and controversy in equal measure, who was as well-known by the poorest Hindu as by the most notable politician. Despite rising to become one of Leicester's most senior political figures, he never ceased also being one of the Hindu community's most energetic representatives, as vice-president of the Hindu Council of Leicestershire, as founding secretary of the Indian Passport

Holders Association, as a founder of the Leicester Asian Business Association and of the British Indian Councilors Association.

Sood was one of the first Asians in Britain to become a councillor, and recruited many other British Indians to become Labour Party members, inspiring some of them to follow his example by being elected to public office. He had been a councillor in Leicester for 12

years, first on Leicestershire County Council, then, a year ago, on Leicester City Council, and most recently, just six days before he died, on Leicester's new unitary authority.

He was born in the Indian Punjab in 1942, the son of a leading Congress politician, and never forgot his background. Throughout his political life he insisted that the Punjab was an integral part of India, and fell out with some

Sikhs as a result. But he was also one of the Indian High Commission's closest allies in British politics, and it was his influence with the Commission that established visa surges in Leicester - a facility that thousands in the city will continue to thank him for.

After graduating as an engineer at Trent Polytechnic, he became an active trade unionist as a member of the ASTMS (the Association of Scientific, Tech-

nical and Managerial Staffs), before leaving engineering to start his own business, first as an insurance broker and then as a travel agent.

Paul Sood was never a man to be quiet, and seldom considered political strategies. Instead, he shouted when he was sure he was right, and persisted when he was ignored. Although he never achieved the political heights that his talents deserved (though he did chair

Leicestershire council's powerful urban policies committee for some years), Sood had a major impact on Leicester's politics for over a decade.

On several occasions he attempted to become an MP, and never doubted that he should have been selected as Labour's parliamentary candidate for Leicester East in 1987. But his bitter 10-year feud with the successful candidate, Keith Vaz, owed more to political

disagreements than Sood's disappointment.

Shortly before his death Paul Sood announced that he was seeking Labour's nomination for the Leicester West parliamentary seat. Although he had only an outside chance of success, Sood was never a person to give up a fight just because the odds were against him. He told his friends that he had to stand to make sure that there was an Asian in the contest, and

that the left of the party had a candidate to vote for.

Paul Sood never spared himself, despite problems with heart disease. He would have wanted to be judged against his final words: "I am only here to serve the community."

Paul Gosling

Vijay Paul Sood, politician and community activist: born Punjab, India 7 July 1942; married (two sons); died Leicester 8 May 1996.

DEATHS

JOSS: On 23 May, peacefully at the Risley Nursing Home, Radlett, Sheila Mary, dearly loved widow of Dennis and mother of Tina. Service of thanksgiving at Christchurch, Radlett, on Tuesday 4 June at 12.15pm, following family cremation. Donations to the British Lung Foundation, 78 Hatton Garden, London EC1 8JR.

Announcements for Gazette BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS (Births, Adoptions, Marriages, Deaths, Memorial services, Wedding anniversaries, In

Births, Marriages & Deaths

Memorials should be sent in writing to the Gazette Editor, The Independent, 1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5DL, telephoned to 0171-293 3011 or faxed to 0171-293 3010, and are charged at 66.50 a line (VAT extra).

Birthdays

Mr Michael Berkeley, composer and broadcaster, 88; Sir Douglas Black, physician, 88; Mr Christopher Bland, chairman, NPS, 88; Sir Kenneth Courzens, chairman, Credit Lyonnais Capital Markets, 71; Mr Quentin Davies MP, 52; Sir Jeremy Elwes, chairman, St Helier NHS Trust, 59; Mr Rupert Everett, actor, 37; Lord Fraser of Carmyllie, Minister of State, Trade and Industry, 51; Lt-Gen Sir Martin Garrod, former Commandant General, Royal Marines, 61;

Sir Anthony Grant MP, 71; Miss Linda Esther Gray, opera singer, 48; Sir Robin Haydon, former diplomat, 70; Sir John Herbo, former civil servant, 74; Sir Trevor Holdsworth, former chairman, National Power, 69; Mr Bob Hope, actor and comedian, 93; Professor Robert Knox, bacteriologist, 92; Sir James Majoribanks, former ambassador, 85; The Earl of Morley, Lord-Lieutenant of Devon, 73; Miss Nanette Newman, actress and writer, 57; Mr Terry Pavey, former Editor, *TV Times*, 53; Mr Francis Rossi, musician, 47; Mr Alvin

Schockenblum, showjumper, 59; Mr Doug Scott, mountaineer, 69; Professor Louis Wain, agricultural scientist, 85; General Sir Richard Worsley, former Quarter Master General, 73; Mr Ianis Xenakis, composer, architect and engineer, 74.

Anniversaries

Births: Gilbert Keith Chesterton, author, 1874; John Fitzgerald Kennedy, 25th US president, 1917. Deaths: Sir William Schwenck Gilbert, librettist,

1911; Jacqueline Onassis (Jacqueline Lee Bouvier), widow of Aristotle Onassis and President John F. Kennedy, 1994. On this day: the evacuation from Dunkirk began, 1940; Sir Edmund Hillary and Sherpa Tenzing reached the summit of Mount Everest, 1953. Today is the First Day of St Bernard of Mompou or Medon, St Cyril of Caesarea, St Maximus of Thier, Saints Sisinus, Marcellus and Alexander, St Theodosius of Constantinople and Saints William, Stephen, Raymond and their Companions.

ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS

The Queen attends a reception given by the Royal School of Church Music, at St James's Palace. The Duke of York visits York to mark the 600th anniversary of the granting of the first Charter; visits an exhibition of local enterprise in the Guildhall, York; visits the new One-Stop community centre, York; attends a luncheon at the Assembly Rooms, York; visits the urban regeneration project at Bell Farm Housing Estate, York; and attends a dinner in Merchant Adventurers' Hall, York. The Princess Royal opens the display by Henry Poole & Co in the Textile and Dress Department, Victoria and

Albert Museum, London SW7; and, as President, Royal Agricultural Society of England, attends President's Day at the Morden Foundation, Pentlands Science Park, Pentlands, Midlothian. Princess Margaret visits the Horse Rangers Association at their Headquarters at the Royal Mews, Hampton Court Palace. Changing of the Guard. The Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment mounts the Queen's Life Guard at Horse Guards, 11am; Nijmegen Company Grenadier Guards mounts the Queen's Guard, at Buckingham Palace, 11.30am. Band provided by the Grenadier Guards.

سكنا من الوطن

the leader page

Labour joins the right: divorced from reality

"A dog's breakfast," Labour's Paul Boateng called it. He has a point. The Bill to reform the divorce laws has been shamelessly hijacked by political opportunism, hypocrisy and unrealistic expectations about the how laws can change behaviour. The combination of Labour's absurd response to the Bill and the machinations of the Tory right have soiled what started life as a sensible reform. Still, even as amended the Bill is an improvement on the current divorce laws, and Labour would be wrong to oppose it for the sake of short-term political gain.

For some, of course, the tortuous battle over the beleaguered Bill has been worth it. Basil Hume, head of the Roman Catholic Church in England and Wales, believes the travails of the Family Law Bill in Parliament have led to significant improvements. These include an 18-month waiting period before divorce, rather than the 12 proposed in Lord Mackay's original Bill - particularly in cases where there are children under 16. For the Archbishop, the extra six months place a greater emphasis on the seriousness of marriage and enhance the chances of reconciliation. Other changes include a statutory provision for marriage support services, for which the Government will have to stump up some cash if mediation is to become a reality.

There is no doubt this Bill would

have a dramatic effect upon married life, especially its common end. Three-quarters of today's divorcees split up through the so-called quickie divorce. Accuse your spouse of adultery and the whole thing is over with a flick of the fingers. If this Bill makes the statute books most of those couples would have to wait 18 months before embracing the single life once more. And even the childless spouse who is the victim of a serious matrimonial offence will still have to wait 12 months before getting a divorce.

It sounds draconian. But the current system is in need of reform. The most significant failing in the current legislation is that there is no requirement for divorcing parents to give thought to the consequences of their actions on their children, and no encouragement to mediate disputes, attempt reconciliation, or indeed do anything apart from engage in an adversarial legal process.

Whatever mistakes have been made by Lord Mackay, the Lord Chancellor, over the handling and detail of the legislation, the guiding principle underpinning the exercise was a logical extension of the 1989 Children Act. It was this Act that ushered in a new era of seeking to resolve issues without resorting to orders of the courts and, crucially, the idea that people should begin taking more responsibility for their actions as far as they affected children. A 12-month delay before a divorce is agreed

is a small price to pay if it helps to ease negotiations over the children's future, and allows time for changes to be properly and coolly considered.

Sadly that sensible principle has been hopelessly corrupted by politicians seeking to use the issue to position themselves as the true defenders of family values. Thus we have heard Mr Boateng making the case that all divorcing couples should be compelled to attend a session of marriage guidance counselling regardless of their wishes. The same Mr Boateng who wants all couples to go through mediation recognises legal provisions to

protect wives from violent husbands are woefully insufficient. If it were simply that Labour was unsure and unclear about where it stands, that would be one thing. But far more worrying is its wilful flirtation with a conservative communitarianism which plays well to the *Daily Mail* gallery. The debate over divorce is a "dog's breakfast" in part because Labour is so incoherent and inconsistent on the issue.

At the other end of the spectrum, the latest device by which Tory moral fundamentalists hope to reintroduce fault-based divorce is a proposal to allow couples to enter into legally-binding

marriage oaths that could only be broken by desertion, long-term separation, adultery or intolerable behaviour.

The result of the pressure from the Tory moral fundamentalists, the weakness of the Tory leadership and vacillation in Labour ranks is a flawed Bill and a missed opportunity to tidy up our divorce laws. More emphasis is now being put upon "conduct" in parental disputes over children. The period before a divorce can become effective is too long and in a petty, counter-productive attempt to encourage mediation while saving public money, legal aid claimants will be obliged to make one visit to a mediator before deciding whether to opt for mediation or legal proceedings. It was for these three reasons that the Law Society withdrew its backing from the Bill last week.

By a long way, this is no perfect piece of social legislation. It would be nice to think a much better alternative would soon be on offer from a sensible, clear headed Labour Party. But that hope may well be forlorn for a party caught between naked opportunism and a flirtation with a disciplinarian social agenda. Labour should think hard about whether joining forces with the John Patters and Lady Olga Majlandts of this world is worth it to inflict the most decisive defeat on the Government of the current Parliament. This Bill is far from perfect. Yet it should achieve one of the central goals of any

reform: to make divorcing parents think, plan and provide for their children. A party that is truly committed to family values would support a measure to improve the lot of children when families unavoidably split.

Ditching the Bill now would throw away too much that is constructive along with the bad. Beneath the clamour and the campaigning, the plain fact remains that the current system of divorce is supported by virtually nobody. Lord Mackay's imperfect reforms are the best we may have on offer.

The cosh comes down on Albania

Albania is a distant country of which most people know little and care less. That is the attitude of the many governments (including ours) that have dabbled in its affairs. The sham of an election conducted over the weekend was the result. The ruling Democratic Party was encouraged by the West that it could do anything to get elected, as long as the Socialists (formerly the Communists) were kept out of power. It has used vote-rigging, intimidation and violence. The country has emerged blinking into the sunlight from decades of repression only to find the cosh coming down once again. This time, we have helped to wield it.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Troubling 'déjà vu' over baby milk

Sir: As the spokesman for the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food instructed mothers to continue buying milk contaminated with hormone-disrupting plastic softeners, one wonders if he experienced a troubling sensation of *déjà vu* ("Cover-up claim in baby milk chemical row", 27 May). MAFF argues that it is "determined to reduce the levels in the milk but they pose no threat". After its experience with BSE, one would expect some hesitation before declaring contaminated food safe.

In fact, MAFF does not know what threat these chemicals pose. There is evidence that humans are experiencing hormone disruption, and these chemicals are prime suspects. If babies face a dose that is even remotely close to that known to cause problems in rats, then the threat must be taken very seriously and the products removed from the shops until the contamination is traced and dealt with.

In the case of BSE, there was always a danger that infected cattle produce would reach consumers and then cause a human variety of the disease. However, the Government used the absence of evidence for a direct link (in reality a failure to look very hard) to justify its half-hearted response. With BSE, it should have eliminated the disease from British herds rather than trying to co-exist with it by imposing a series of inadequate controls. With contaminated milk, it now faces a similar dilemma. The responsible, precautionary approach would be to remove completely these milk contaminants rather than trying to persuade mothers that their babies can take it.

CLIVE BATES
London N16

Sir: What a bitter irony that the end of National Breastfeeding Awareness Week should be marked by a health scare concerning infant formula ("Sex change chemicals in baby milk", 26 May).

That rogue chemicals - phthalates in this case - should have found their way into many brands of infant formula is further evidence that the commonly held belief that breastmilk and infant formula are pretty much the same thing is entirely erroneous. Infant formula manufacturers have played down the significant health advantages of breastfeeding and the health risks associated with bottle feeding. But the composition of breastmilk and infant formula is very different, and the health benefits and protection accruing to the breastfed infant, and also its mother, are considerable.

The Unicef/UK Baby Friendly Initiative has gathered research on breastmilk which shows that the health benefits for the baby include amongst others, protection against gastroenteritis, chest infections, eczema and cot death, and for the mother, lower risk of ovarian and premenopausal breast cancer.

There are many concerned midwives and health visitors who seek to disseminate good, well-informed breastfeeding advice, but their task is an uphill one. Breastfeeding has no deep-pocketed benefactors and must



'What's your poison?'

therefore rely on the government for a promotional budget which is estimated to be between 9p and 16p per new baby compared with the £6.25 spent on advertising for each baby born by the infant formula manufacturers. This disparity in promotional spend ensures that the infant formula manufacturers are able to control the infant feeding agenda.

Perhaps the fear provoked by the phthalates scare will have a positive side, and will cause those responsible for delivering health care to pregnant women to reappraise their approach to the promotion of healthy infant feeding. ADRIENNE FULLERTON
Baby Milk Action
London E18

Gambling with Ally Pally

Sir: The Treasury Solicitor has emphasised the "risk" that Haringey has taken with its grandiose redevelopment of Alexandra Palace whose debt has spiralled out of control ("£55m Ally Pally losses leave 20-year legacy of cuts", 27 May).

At the public inquiry into the scheme in 1982 Haringey promised that it would not put a penny on the rates. Confronted with the fact that the debt amounts to over 50,000 pennies for each rate payer, Toby Harris, the council leader, now declares that this ancient promise is "inoperative". Neither the Charity Commission nor the District Auditor, who should have put a cap on the debt years ago, can plead ignorance; they have been

kept informed as the scandal unfolded. But they too appear likely to escape unscathed.

Risk is unavoidable. If Haringey's gamble had paid off - improbable though that was given the evidence available at the time - they would have reaped the political benefit. But if there is never an equivalent penalty to be paid for getting it wrong, there is nothing to dissuade councillors from accepting the next one-way bet they are offered.

JOHN ADAMS
London WC1

Sir: Development? What development? North London needs every inch of green landscape it can get. The outrageous act of building on the stretch of green breathing-space at the palace and park would make the loss of £55m look almost enlightened.

Dr DAVID FLEMING
London NW3

Sustaining the growth of cities

Sir: Professor Peter Smith's comment (letter, 27 May) on Geoffrey Lean's article on the UN "city summit" highlights the major problem of energy demand created by the growth of cities, but takes too little account of the problem of energy, food and job shortage in rural areas as a cause of that growth. This is seen for example in the depredation of forests through human and cattle

population growth in the Northern Punjab and Kashmir watersheds (and related shortage of agricultural land) and the growth of Mirpur, Sialkot and Gujranwala.

Growth of eight per cent per annum of the population of Gujranwala is sustainable and relative stability of rural populations in Northern Punjab is possible partly because of income from labour migration to the Gulf, partly through industrial growth and partly through water resources development. But this has also been made possible through the effective use of credit systems supported by the World Bank family (but also massively by the State Bank), permitting a dramatic development of a small scale owner farmer agricultural system and of irrigation and hydro-power, industrial development and a "sites and services" programme for the labour that comes from the countryside.

The reason why cities grow is that they are a massive boon to society, and because where circumstances prevent this growth deprivation, conflict, human degradation and destruction of the environment occur. The answer is indeed international co-operation, but also to create and sustain the resources needed for the inevitable continued growth of cities, recognising that this means relating city and industrial growth to agricultural and rural development.

JOHN PILGRIM
Bath

Divorce patterns set in childhood

Sir: Laying aside the fecklessness factor - which is real and worrying - I would hazard that most people enter unhappy and therefore destructive marital relationships because this is a pattern which has been set for them in childhood by inadequate parenting (Polemik, Melanie Phillips and Polly Toynbee, 24 May).

If you take Melanie Phillips's attitude - that you make your bed and lie on it - you are effectively condemning those who have already known unhappiness in childhood to unhappiness in adult life also, should they be so unfortunate as to marry someone not able to help them resolve the problems of the past.

It may well be that such persons, and there are many of them, will need the help of outside agencies to achieve this difficult goal, but locking them in relationships from which they can only escape with further damage to their already depleted self-esteem hardly seems the charitable way forward.

ANGELA BARTINGTON
Appleton,
Oxfordshire

Sir: The children of a broken marriage are more likely than others to regard divorce as the only way out of stress between married couples. They will not be able to see that people who stay married are not "splitting in the wind of change" as Ms Toynbee

suggests. It's just that they have found a more mature way of dealing with their differences so that neither their children nor society will suffer.

D GOODMAN
What About the Children
Nottingham

Legacy of gas production

Sir: British Gas, the owners of the proposed Millennium site in Greenwich (report, 17 May), seem to have kept a remarkably low profile in the debate about how the development is to be funded. The main problem with the site is the legacy of 100 years of gas production - and the apparent generosity of British Gas in donating the site is very much a poisoned chalice.

At a time of almost universal consensus that the polluter should pay the cost of decontaminating polluted land and when British Gas is brimming with profits, is not the case for them sponsoring the site overwhelming?

ANDREW C BLUNDY
London SE7

Berlin banner

Sir: The series of articles on your foreign pages about the current state of the Jewish Diaspora is very interesting and informative. But "To Remember To Live" is a clumsy and inaccurate translation of the Berlin banner. Why not "Memory is Life"?

JANET LAMING
Cambridge

Burma: cruelty and kindness

Sir: I recently returned to Burma after a 54-year absence (travel column, 25 May). I had agonised over whether or not to go: whether it would be colluding with an odious tyranny or whether the increasing presence of foreigners might give hope to a cruelly imprisoned people. In the end, I went; not with a tour but travelling by myself. I squashed into sardine cans of trucks, met ordinary Burmese and used my eyes and ears.

During the month I spent in Burma, people risked imprisonment - and probably torture - to talk to me about the military regime and the crimes it had committed: its cruelty, its ruthlessness, its stupidity. All loathed and despised the thugs who oppressed them.

The much-vaunted stability of the country is a sham. It's about as stable as the old buildings in Rangoon, spick and span painted in front and filthy and falling to bits at the back. Burma is a country of chain gangs, torture and corruption. It's also a potential tourist gold mine which is why the Japanese and Chinese are pouring money in. While the American State Department complains about human rights abuses our government remains silent.

If Aung San Suu Kyi had said four months ago "Please don't go to Burma" I wouldn't have gone. I was a small child there and had memories of kindness, laughter and warmth. Those qualities - incredibly - are still evident, but I won't go back until the National League for Democracy is in power.

KATE MENZIES
London W8

Church prejudice

Sir: In criticising Lord Runcie, the former Archbishop of Canterbury, for knowingly ordaining homosexuals, the Rev Nigel Scotland refers to the belief that the Church of England is losing members at a rate of 300 per day (letter, 27 May).

He overlooks the possibility that at least a proportion of those leaving may be giving up on the Church precisely because of the persistence within it of ancient prejudices such as the view that homosexuality is sinful. Open and honest acceptance of the role which homosexuals do play (and probably always have played) in its ministry is the only way forward for the Church of England on this issue. Supporters of any other attitude must say goodbye to the ability of the Church to comment without hypocrisy on any issue of sexual morality or prejudice, and indeed to such capacity as it may possess to speak in the modern world for a tolerant and caring form of Christianity.

Dr GRAHAM GOULD
Department of Theology
and Religious Studies
King's College, London WC2

Crossroad rage

Sir: You write "perhaps the earliest example of road rage was in 1817" ("End of our love affair with the car?", 25 May). There is a much earlier candidate: the altercation between Oedipus and his father at the crossroads. The Greeks, as ever, were there first.

ELIZABETH CRAIK
Department of Greek
University of St Andrews
Fife

essay

A year ago Newt Gingrich was leading a right-wing revolution sweeping across America. So what went wrong?

By Garry Wills

How could it have faded so fast – the joyous delirium with which Republicans only last year took charge of the Congress and the nation? It was announced that Peggy Noonan, the Reagan-Bush speech writer, would go back to Washington to do a book on the Revolution. The new Speaker of the House was sworn in with the trappings of a presidential installation. His first Hundred Days were finished with a prime-time address on network TV. There was a nice blend of populism and pedagogy in the ascendancy of the professor from an out-of-the-way college – Dr Newt Gingrich. Beyond merely studying history, these were people come to make it.

Pundits debated whether Gingrich would become president in 1996 or wait until 2000. Others seriously asked if that would not be a demotion, since the election had made Congress the centre of government. Democrats looked cowed, because they were. Republicans looked invincible, because they thought they were.

Bliss was it in that dawn to be alive.

But to be young was very heaven... Wordsworth's poem on the French Revolution might have been written for the heady opening days of the Gingrich Era, when all things seemed possible.

The President could do little to affect or deter what was happening. Rarely, it seemed, had a movement united so large a constituency so unequivocally. Welfare, bureaucracy, regulations, career politicians – for all of these the End had come. Madame Noonan was knitting purple prose beside the guillotine.

The very giddiness was ominous. But who could have predicted that a year later, Clinton would be regnant? Gingrich was not the leader of his party but a drag on it, his polls even lower than the sinking approval rate for Congress in general and the Republican party in particular. Revolutions are known to devour their own; but it seemed that this one barely had time to develop an appetite before it gulped down Gingrich.

What happened? The villain in the piece was, as is usual in such cases, also the hero. Gin-

grich was undone by his own devices. A master of destructive techniques, he did not suspect that mere destruction destroys itself. A quick-change artist, he thought he could change society with political tools, which is like changing the weather with a thermometer.

It would be hard to overstate the audacity of Gingrich's Contract With America. No one had ever before tried to create a national mandate from congressional elections. Yet elections are clumsy tools for setting policy. All they determine is who will be carrying out policy for a while.

If a presidential mandate is shadowy at best, what can one expect of a congressional "mandate," assembled from so many different regional contests, embodied in no single spokesperson, reflecting agendas and urgencies not universally shared? It is one of the many ironies of Gingrich's movement that, while professing to return government to state and local levels, he urged candidates at those levels to run a national campaign, restricting their campaign themes to those dictated by his national "brain trust".

More important than the items included in the Contract were those excluded. Divisive issues were suppressed for the duration of the campaign – abortion, school prayer, gun ownership. The point was to concentrate on areas of maximum agreement. The goal was to win. After getting control of the Senate and House, Gingrich assured the restive, Republicans could reward their friends, take care of the gun lobby, cut off funds for abortion and so on.

Once the issues were chosen, the pollster Frank Luntz was asked to find the most seductive ways of phrasing each point. He found that even the word "Republican" was too divisive for inclusion, so the Republican Contract became just the Contract With America. Technological sugar-coating would be important throughout the Revolution. Yet despite the Republican National Committee's expenditure (\$265,000) to disseminate the Contract in TV Guide form, only 17 per cent of voters said they were aware of it. Those who knew about it were hazy on its contents.

There is no denying the effectiveness of the Contract as



Victor and vanquished: Republicans came to fear Clinton was playing Gingrich 'like an organ.'

Photograph: AP

a campaign tool. It probably did sway a marginal portion of the voters. But only those bemused by a metaphor can think that the American people entered into a binding compact. The Contract language was invented to please people tired of politics as usual. "See," it said, "we are not your normal politicians making promises; we are contracting with you to do what you want and if we fail to do it, throw us out".

If voters fell for that hocus-pocus, well and good for the Republicans. But Gingrich was so in love with his own invention that he fell for it himself. Gingrich wanted to hold the American people to a contractual obligation they supposedly assumed when they voted Republican. When some Republicans in the House were tempted to waver, Gingrich held them to the Contract –

and, through them, required the people to "keep their bargain". He said his model was Sergeant Stryker, the John Wayne character in *Sands of Iwo Jima*, who must be hard on his troops so they will perform well in battle.

Those Congressmen tempted to falter under the Gingrich discipline were lured back by the extraordinary access to money he was providing. Here is the second major irony of the Revolution. Term limits had to be included in the Contract, since they were especially popular with the key Perot voters. Perot had inveighed against incumbents who became tools of the Gucci-shod lobbyists. Yet no one has done more to butter up the lobbyists than Gingrich. Money-raising by congressional officeholders has far surpassed all Democratic equivalents, giving members a big head start for their races in the presidential election year.

After years of attacking Democrats' corrupt use of incumbency to please lobbyists, Gingrich came not to destroy but to perfect that practice – and to carry it to new heights. His excuse was revolutionary necessity. If money was needed to pass the Contract, that was justified by the fact that the Contract was the people's will. The alleged mandate excused any tactics needed for its implementation. In this way, the Contract became a money-washing machine. Dirty cash,

processed through it, came out clean.

Gingrich likes to think of politics as war (or a war movie). As he told a group of Young Republicans: "I think one of the great problems we have in the Republican Party is that we don't encourage you to be nasty." The obverse of sugar-coating one's own proposals was to drench the other side in the language of revolution. Opponents were not just wrong but vicious, corrupt, grotesque, sick, or insane – favourite Gingrich adjectives. "The Sixties"

would be broken by "train wreck". The government, Reagan had taught Republicans to believe, was the problem, not the solution. All right, then shut the government down.

The instrument Gingrich chose to shove his dynamite into the logjam was forcing the government to adhere to the balanced budget. In any true sense, the Constitution does not permit Congress to "shut down" the government. Anyway Congress would not dare to cut off certain funds within its power of the purse – for the

temptuous and dismissive of the opposition that he underestimated it. His own troops' anti-government rhetoric made light of the consequences of cutting off federal funds. Leaving federal workers unpaid, week after week, put a human face on "the bureaucracy". Punishing actual people is not the same as making ideological jokes about the worthless government.

The President, while refusing to crumple at the first assault, showed a sweet reasonableness in negotiation – a luxury Gingrich was not permitted. Gingrich had inspired his troops with an intransigence to which he was now held hostage. Revolutionary leaders end by trying to out-radical each other – Danton and Marat are succeeded by Saint-Just and Robespierre. When Gingrich seemed to lose the revolutionary fire in his belly, others were pushed forward to make sure he was not selling out.

Gingrich, who had shown amazing stamina for most of the year, became snappish and weepy. On 6 December, in the middle of the budget crisis, when he learned that a special counsel had been appointed to investigate his ethics, he broke down "sobbing like a child, heaving and shaking". Earlier, his petulance out of control, he had said that he had closed down the government because of a snub on [The Presidential plane] Air Force One.

Even as he was talking, complaining about the President's

Gingrich likes to think of politics as war. Opponents were 'vicious, corrupt, sick'

was a term invokable any time some nut shot another person, or TV got violent, or writers were more sexually explicit than Gingrich had been in his own mildly racy novel.

Yet the very speed with which he drove the Contract through the House began to look like an empty exercise as things bogged down in the Senate. Bob Dole, the then Senate leader, said there was no point to offering legislation in a form satisfactory to Contract supporters if the bills would be vetoed by the President.

Faced with this problem, Gingrich decided to go straight for the major obstacle. He would break the President's power entirely. "Gridlock"

armed services (including veterans' hospitals), or federal law-enforcement agencies. The "shutdown" had to suspend certain services, not government. Even on such limited terms, this move was a maximum strike; if it failed, there was no bigger weapon left in the arsenal. And it was important to make the President look responsible for the suspension of services – a difficult thing.

This provoked the showdown over the budget late last year that led to the Federal government being closed down with thousands of workers left unpaid. Gingrich was confident that Clinton "had no backbone". Once again he fell for his own rhetoric. He was so con-

lack of manners and courtesy. Gingrich realised that he was making a mistake. He could not control himself. Gingrich's sense of affront came from an assurance about his mandate. As polls showed that the longer the suspension of government went on, the more Republicans were blamed, Gingrich had to strike a deal. His gung-ho troops were against "surrender", so the disciplinarian who had earlier held them to their pledges now ordered the abandonment of them. Meeting with the Republican caucus, Gingrich issued his personal fiat: "This is a team vote and we're going to do this as a team. We're all wearing the same jerseys today. Sometimes you don't agree with the plays that are called. But this is the way we're going."

What would happen if anyone did not vote with the team? Gingrich said he would not punish such a person, but he would keep a list, and "If any of you [on the list] come up and talk about how the team's got to help you out, I don't want to hear about it."

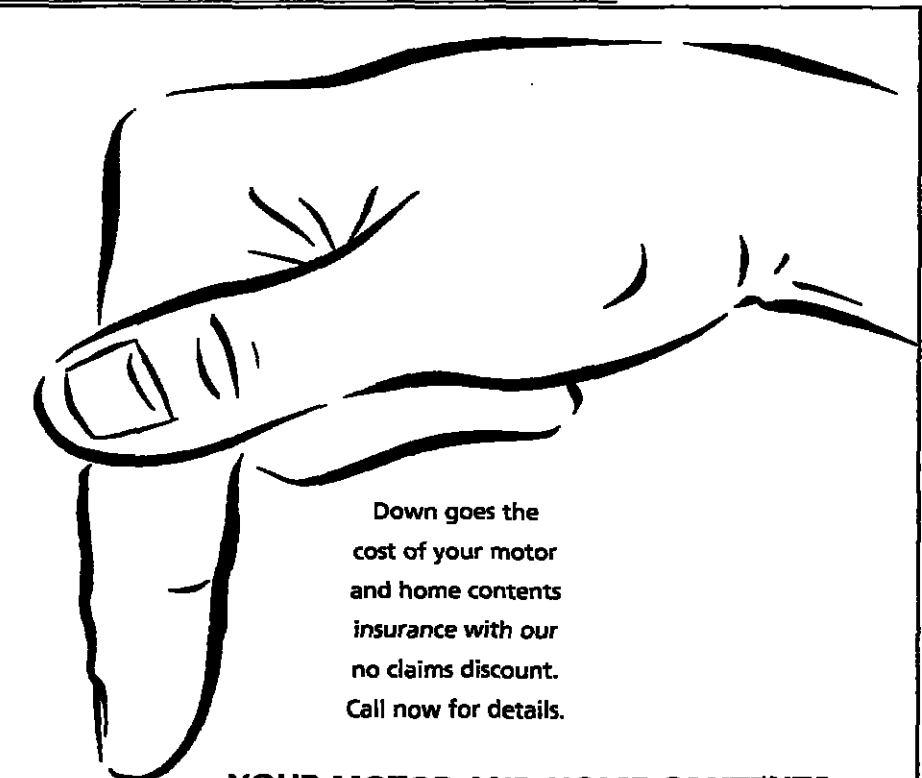
Gingrich had used his own supposed adamance as a battering ram, but in the final rush on the wall, the battering ram had shattered, not the wall. People's perception of Gingrich as a purely negative force led to the reaction against him personally, making him the most unpopular politician on the national scene. Even those who disliked Gingrich had, heretofore, credited him with political shrewdness. Now they were wondering about that.

The crowning irony is that Gingrich did more than anyone or anything else to make Clinton look good. It had been a hackneyed journalistic theme that these two men were eerily alike – self-indulgent baby boomers with no military service, good counterpunchers, glib, proud of their ability to talk themselves out of trouble. But when the two were brought together for protracted negotiations, though Clinton may not have grown, he seemed to have, so precipitately did Gingrich shrink.

Clinton had the better feel for his adversary, as he does for people in general. Gingrich is the bright boy who has to show you all he knows at once. His air of certitude makes him brittle. He began to suspect what other Republicans were sure of, that Clinton was "playing him like an organ". One of the things to be said of Clinton is that there is a full (if flawed) human being behind the facade. It is hard to feel confident about that in Gingrich's case. The contrast shows up in Clinton's almost comically large circle of real friends. Gingrich has a thousand allies and no friends.

It must have been a shock for Peggy Noonan, still patient by the guillotine, when the head that plopped into the basket was Newt's.

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The Time Lord lands in a period drama

The BBC was always fond of repeating programmes, but now it has started repeating ideas as well. Dear old Dr Who is back on our screens after all these years. Jane Austen is never off our screens. The corpse of "Call My Bluff" has been revived and is haunting daytime TV. Just William keeps coming back... It's only a matter of time before the BBC desperately tries to combine them all in one glorious edition of... Dr Who And the Battle For Regency England.

The scene is an 18th-century drawing room. Three young sisters, Katie, Emma and Caroline, are sitting on a sofa, sewing and talking about young men in general and husbands-to-be in particular.

Katie: I sometimes think how wonderful it would be if some young gentleman would pay a call totally unannounced and break the tedium of the afternoon!

Emma: Don't look now, but I think you may well have your request granted.

All this time, through the window, she and we can see a police box labelled "Tardis"

materialising in the garden, and Dr Who emerging, looking rather dazed. The girls rush to the window. He spies the front door and moves towards it, and they rush back to their seats. Moments later he enters the drawing room and addresses the girls.

Dr Who: Ladies, may I ask you something?

Katie: Sir, we have not been introduced.

Dr Who: There is not time for that, I fear. I need to know one thing immediately. In what century are we?

Katie: A gentleman, sir, need not know what century it is to have some manners. A knowledge of etiquette is more important than a knowledge of chronology.

Emma: Katie, can you not see that the young man is in some trouble? This is no time for social games. To Dr Who. We have just entered the 19th century, sir. These are Napoleonic times.

Dr Who: Are they, by heavens? Then where are the Tarjests?

Emma: There is no family of that name in this neigh-



Miles Kingston

bourhood, sir. Are they of good stock?

Dr Who: They are small, four-armed creatures whom I am pursuing through the time spectrum. I must catch them before they bring the Jewel of Tyggvasar back to the Palace of Sighs and change the result of the Napoleonic Wars.

Caroline: They have jewels? They sound interesting. Are they handsome?

Dr Who: No. They are very wary and their ears are detachable.

Caroline: Hmm. Even so, if they have many jewels... A girl cannot pick and choose for ever...

Dr Who: With your permis-

sion, I shall search the house upstairs.

As he leaves, the girls look at each other meaningfully. For Dr Who is very handsome. But before they can sit again, a small tousled boy with muddy marks on his face enters, holding a letter. It is William.

William: Excuse me, but I'm tryin' to find a Miss Emma to give a letter to. I've walked all round Hadleigh trying to find a girl called Emma, and they're all called Susie and Peggy and silly ol' names like that. I don't know why girls can't have sensible names like Red Hand and Carla the Kidnapper...

Emma: I am called Emma. From whom is the letter?

William: From my brother Robert. He wants to marry you. I hope you do, so that he can move out of the house and I can have his bedroom. And his bike.

Emma: Marry him? But I don't even know him!

William: That's all right, I know him a sight better than I would like to. If there's anything you want to know, you can ask me...

Emma: Well, what is he like? Has he any money?

William: He orders you about the whole time, he hates you goin' in his wardrobe and he's just got £5 because he's sold his airgun.

Emma: And with only that, he wants to be my suitor?

William: I dunno. What's a suitor?

Katie: A suitor is a man who wants your hand in marriage.

Emma: No, actually, a suitor is a sea bird found in Chile which makes a noise like a football crowd.

Caroline: Actually, a suitor is the name that they gave in Victorian times to the device that kept suits well pressed on damp nights.

Enter Dr Who, as chairman of the game.

Dr Who: So there we have "suitor", defined three ways. It's a sea bird, a man who proposes marriage or... He looks at William for the first time. By heavens! Are you one of the Tarjests?

Coming soon on the BBC – part two! Well, just as soon as we have repeated part one a few times.

سكتان الاصل

the commentators

No one really wins in this life-and-death lottery

Randomised clinical trials of new medicines present a dilemma for doctors, who want results, and patients, who just want to be cured

Are you willing to be a guinea pig? Perhaps, in some circumstances, for the sake of the public good, you might agree to take part in a clinical trial. But would you agree if you or your child had a life-threatening condition? More and more patients are now refusing and, as a result, a large number of Medical Research Council-backed clinical trials are being abandoned. The money is there, the doctors are keen, the statisticians are standing by their computers – but the patients will have none of it.

Professor David Machin, one of the MRC's chief statisticians, says many trials are collapsing because patients want treatments, not experiments. In the old days before ethics committees obliged doctors to get genuinely informed consent from patients, the issue was often fudged. Nowadays, patients read about treatments and they know what they want. They may be wrong, but they have opinions.

Examples: a trial of brain tumour treatment has been abandoned because only one patient in two years was willing to enter it. The trial was designed to find out whether

cutting out a cancerous tumour made a difference or might even do more harm. Patients were to be chosen randomly by computer either to have their tumour removed or to have no treatment and to be closely observed. But they all demanded that the tumour be taken out.

It was not a question of allowing them to choose which they had. To make the trial properly scientific, their treatment had to be selected by computer. It was this element of luck they couldn't abide. But if they had been allowed to choose or if their doctors had chosen for them, then the statisticians would have declared the trial invalid.

Another trial is collapsing: doctors suspect that conventional chemotherapy may be as effective in treating childhood leukaemia as bone marrow transplants, which are more painful and expensive. They asked parents to allow their children to go into a random trial, but the parents refused. They want the transplant, not the chemotherapy, because they've read about it as a successful treatment. The same is happening with prostate cancer trials – men are demanding to have the

cancer removed and are refusing a random trial that might select them to have no treatment at all. They are insisting on surgery even though for older men, operating may be much more dangerous than the cancer.

Doctors' powers of persuasion are considerable. If a doctor recommends one or other course of action, the patient would probably accept it. What patients don't like, quite rightly, is for a doctor to refuse to give an opinion and to offer them a random trial instead.

The offer to join a trial can be singularly unattractive. I have twice refused, though I admit I felt ashamed at doing so. It is part of one's civic duty to help medicine along, but when your own life is on the line, science takes a back seat.

As I had a high family risk of breast cancer, I was asked to join a trial to see if the drug tamoxifen prevented high-risk women from getting cancer. First, the doctor had to persuade me that tamoxifen looked like a good bet. It might have some side-effects, but early indications suggested it also might prevent cancer.

Now that is a clear choice. But when the doctor goes on to say: "Ah,



POLLY TOYNEE

Trials collapse because people want treatment, not experiment

but I'm not offering tamoxifen. I'm offering a randomised trial, so neither you nor I will know if you are getting it or a sugar pill," then that is deeply disturbing. You screw up your nerve to accept a treatment – then you don't know if you are getting it or not. Are you having side-effects or is it imaginary? I said no, and I had nothing. (This may have been a mistake, but how am I to know?)

I am not alone. In the early days of AZT in America, a group of AIDS

patients were offered AZT only if they entered a double-blind trial. When they realised half of them were getting sugar pills, they rebelled. Secretly, they ganged together and pooled all the pills so that they could all get at least some of the AZT. The trial was wrecked. Random trials make a lottery of life, but then unscientifically proven medicine is anyway a lottery.

Later I did develop breast cancer. Once it was chopped out, I was offered another randomised trial. I would be allocated tamoxifen, tamoxifen and radiotherapy, just radiotherapy or nothing. I was sure my distinguished specialist had a hunch which treatment he thought best. He might not prove it scientifically, but he must have an idea and I demanded the benefit of his experience. He would not give it. At this point, any patient wonders whether the imperatives of science are interfering with the doctor's imperative to do the best possible for his patient.

So I went for a second opinion from a specialist not engaged in this trial. I gleaned from him the general view that tamoxifen was a pretty good bet and radiotherapy in my

case was probably not necessary. Armed with this reassuring advice, I returned to my own doctor, refused the trial and requested the treatment I wanted. This was, I am afraid, anti-social behaviour. The more of us who behave like that the more impossible it becomes to find out which treatments work. And yet for a doctor to withhold his opinion in order to coerce you into a trial seems to me to verge on the unethical, where scientific ends justify the dubious means.

The reason we need trials is that cancer treatment is an absurd lottery anyway, with doctors up and down the country doing quite different things. We may beg a doctor to give his best advice, but his hunches may be no better than a randomised trial. Without trials, no one knows what works, but there are good reasons why patients say no.

I have spoken to many doctors and researchers over the last few days. Some are crisply scientific – the trials must continue on the old basis. Others hope the statisticians will come up with better ways to assess outcomes while letting patients make choices for themselves. Pro-

fessor Machin says that can't be done: if doctors advise patients which treatment to take, the trials would be fatally flawed.

Professor Ian Kennedy, leading medical ethicist, thinks this is an intrinsic ethical problem: if doctors suppress their own advice, they compromise their duty to patients. "They may justify it by claiming a higher morality. Or else they just say, 'I'd like to do this trial, I've got the money, and the ethics.' If research is an imperative, that way lies Nuremberg." Another leading cancer doctor said: "Oh God, don't talk to the ethics people. What do they know about science?" Another pointed out why that doctors and nurses are the hardest to persuade into randomised trials.

This issue produces not just a conflict of interest between the individual and the general good. It reveals a fundamental divide between a vision of medicine as cold science and medicine as art, a healing magic to make us feel good. No one knows the answer to this dilemma – but it is making the onward march of medicine considerably harder.

The latest Americanised resurrection of the Time Lord is not the character loved by fans, says the science fiction writer Kim Newman

Dr Who has been exterminated

One Saturday teatime in 1966, William Hartnell's Doctor Who collapsed at the end of an episode. The next week, with no pre-publicity I can remember, the Doctor got up again, transformed into Patrick Troughton. Watching Paul McGann on Monday night as the latest incarnation of the BBC's long-serving hero is a similarly bizarre, half-satisfying experience. The only feature the new film retains as its fixed point in time and space is that blue phone box, phased out so long ago in real life that the BBC eventually took over the copyright on the design.

For faithful fans, the Doctor has been away since 1989, when Sylvester McCoy – an oddball in a panama hat who I was never able to square with my belief in the Doctors from Hartnell to Tom Baker – had the show cancelled out from under him by a BBC dissatisfied with falling ratings and, it must be said, very choppy quality. For thirtysomethings like me, the Doctor has been away a lot longer. My first television memory is of "The Dalek Invasion of Earth", which I saw in 1964, at my grandmother's house two weeks before my parents bought a television set. My whole generation stuck with the show, becoming more sophisticated along with it, well into the 1970s. Doctors regenerated, mini-skirted sidekicks came and went, the shuffling Daleks were replaced by the more versatile Master as most favoured villain, Brigadier Lethbridge-Stewart reported to an unseen woman prime minister (a rare accurate prediction of the future) and we actually discovered a few things about the Time Lords.

I had to get out a reference book to work out just when I stopped watching Doctor Who. It was in late 1977, half-way through Tom Baker's tenure, partly because I became a university student and grew out of

a lifestyle that accommodated even the notion of Saturday teatime, and partly because the show itself lost something vital. Now, I understand this had a great deal to do with Baker's inclination to lark about and a need to lighten up the show because the killjoys of the National Viewers' and Listeners' Association complained about the violence and horror.

It took me a while to realise that what I really missed in the new version was the monsters.

Though I liked the show's eccentric humour, I was one of those kids who loved its horror.

For its first 15 years, Doctor Who managed to be genuinely scary despite its rubber creatures. Star Trek presents a cosy tiny universe where any problems can be solved within 47 minutes; Doctor Who, at its height, depicted a universe that was vast, multifarious, hostile and populated entirely by species (the British army included) intent on destroying everyone else. Then, with its pantomime knockabout and that bloody robot dog, it lost the plot. I sampled episodes from the Peter Davison, Colin Baker and Sylvester McCoy eras, but they weren't Doctor Who for me.

For this reason, I'm less upset by the McGann regeneration than I suspect some die-hard Whovians will be. The revelation of seeing a shot-on-film "Who" that is well-lit and atmospheric – something the show hasn't been since its very earliest studio monochrome days – is so strong that, in his first real cameo, even Sylvester McCoy comes across well, sug-



Daleks: at its height, Doctor Who's universe was vast and hostile and populated by species intent on destroying everyone else

Photograph: BBC

gesting the melancholy of an outcast from his own planet who can never fit in on Earth. And when he regenerates as the chattering loon who slowly accrues personality as he picks up clothes, it is clear that this Time Lord is establishing a quite promising reading of the role.

Paul McGann may well be the best actor ever cast as Doctor Who and – considering that other names linked with the part in the past few years include Michael Crawford, David Hasselhoff and Eric Idle – he is the miraculous survival of a production that otherwise consistently doesn't quite work. More money has been spent

on this TV movie than was allotted to entire seasons of the old show, which means it has had to be an international co-production, set in San Francisco and shot in Canada.

It seems to me that a great deal of British popular television can only benefit from the vigour of the American approach. The upping of production values and narrative drive when applied to traditionally British, strong scripting and acting boosted the first seasons of Prime Suspect, Cracker and Between the Lines. But Doctor Who is really hurt by the need for car chases, a cocky ethnic sidekick, a second-rate, direct-to-video villain (Eric

Roberts is blithely unaware that he is taking over the role of the Master from anyone, thus failing to respect his predecessors' reading in the way McGann does). The swelling strings to accompany the sentiment are wholly inappropriate.

It took me a while to realise that what I was really missing in the new Doctor Who was the monsters. There was a transparent snake bearing the Master's soul, but the National Viewers' and Listeners' Association seems to have banished the Daleks, the Cybermen, the Yeti and the rest. To me, Doctor Who – following the Quatermass tradition and uncannily prefiguring the likes of Alien and

The X-Files – was always a horror show with sci-fi rationale. Losing that means reducing its power enormously. With the money, there was no excuse for not coming up with a really impressive, really frightening villain.

There has been a fuss about the inclusion of an understated romance with the blandly American heroine, which is not quite as unprecedented as it sounds, given the very early years of the show. Remember, Hartnell had a granddaughter, and anoraks will remind you that there have been two instances of Time Lords settling down romantically with humans as ways of writing out supporting characters.

What strikes me as the crucial cop-out is the revelation that the Doctor isn't a full Time Lord but half-human.

This development means little in plot context but fractures the whole essence of the Doctor's character. Quite apart from the fact that it turns him into a knock-off of Mr Spock, it means that he becomes half-American.

We can't really complain that Yanks co-opt our popular culture – how often have you cringed at the "aw shucks" accents Disney gave Winnie the Pooh or Peter Pan? – since we, represented by institutions such as the BBC, seem so eager to give it away in the name of international sales. But barricades should be put up around Doctor Who.

Once and for all, *Pride and Prejudice* is not supposed to be a soap opera with nice frocks. EM Forster meant *Room With a View* as an indictment of the values embodied in the film by James Ivory (an American), and – just as Vulcans are at once alien and American – Time Lords are at once alien and British.

I'm glad to have Doctor Who back, but, though promising, this regeneration hasn't taken yet. There's still extraneous American DNA floating around the matrix, perhaps left there by the Master. It needs to be purged if the Doctor's career is to extend into the new millennium.

The writer's latest novel is 'The Bloody Red Baron' (Simon & Schuster).

Simple preacher tries on a pontiff's robes

The globetrotting Archbishop of Canterbury is setting himself an unreachable goal, says Paul Valley

The Archbishop of Canterbury is starting to look like an Anglican pope. This month it has been the United States and before that it was Singapore, Bosnia, Spain and Portugal, Egypt and Sudan. Since he took office George Carey has made more than 40 overseas trips, already overtaking the number undertaken by his predecessor Robert Runcie, who was the first at Canterbury to travel widely.

Traditionally, church historians are fond of saying that an archbishop of Canterbury has at least four jobs. He is a diocesan bishop, Primate of All-England, chaplain to the nation and the leader of the communion of churches throughout the world whose 70 million members trace their roots back to the church in England. It is in this last area that papal comparisons arise.

But the Pope in Rome is a different creature in many ways. He has juridical authority with, in the words of the First Vatican Council, "immediate universal jurisdiction". He is a head of state, with embassies around the world. He is the head of a government run by a huge bureaucracy with a billion Catholics, nominally at least, in his sway. Up his sleeve a pope always has the card of blind obedience, though most are too smart to play it. But when the Pope snaps his fingers a lot of people jump.

By contrast, an archbishop of Canterbury's official authority is limited to

the diocese of Canterbury. He is able to manipulate some of the General Synod's decisions. And he does not have legal powers in other Anglican provinces. Nor can he steamroller the Lambeth Conference which every 10 years brings together all the world's Anglican bishops.

"How many divisions has the Pope," Stalin famously sneered. Had he been asking the question of Canterbury he might have thought in terms of mere platoons.

"I am not an Anglican pope," Robert Runcie was fond of saying privately to those whom he felt had failed to understand the subtle nature of his relationship to Anglicans around the world. For Anglicans authority is moral rather than juridical. Their archbishop is expected to maintain unity merely through "bonds of affection" and the sense that all Anglicans can trace their roots back to the first archbishop of Canterbury, Augustine, in 597. There is much talk about Canterbury as *primus inter pares* with analogies concerning the Queen and the Commonwealth.

He is thus, depending on what kind of Anglican you are, the next best thing to an Anglican pope or a far better thing – for there is no risk of a pontifical dictatorship imposing a homogeneous orthodoxy insensitive to the qualities of the local culture.

But the Anglican style of leadership, requiring nuance and artful persuasion

is risky. For it cannot rely on the dignity of the office if there is a duff man at the top. The success or failure of the enterprise depends entirely on the skills of that single individual.

Hence the eyebrows that were being arched in the direction of Los Angeles, where Dr Carey has been visiting, this week. Especially after Lord Runcie's oblique attack on the style of his successor last week, which he described as "preachy" in style and

'The whispering is that Carey hasn't got the intellectual depth'

"management church" in substance. Carey's Church of England plc has diminished still further the mystique and awe that the Roman papacy, for all its failings, is still able to command.

But the distinctions between Dr Runcie and Dr Carey go deeper. The two men are rather differently regarded by churchmen and women abroad. Dr Runcie's reputation was coloured by his battles with Margaret Thatcher's government in the Eighties. Abroad, his political nous was given credit for the church being one of the few institutions that survived Thatcherism and continued to speak for England as the voice of fairness,

justice and broad-minded decency.

"Runcie's patrician approach commanded respect, especially as people knew of the substance behind it – that he had stood out against Margaret Thatcher," said one distinguished Indian cleric. By contrast, "Carey sounds like a commoner and has no comparable achievement behind him. He should play to his strength and spend his time at the grassroots with the common people. Instead, he follows the Runcie model of meeting with statesmen and politicians; his grand philosophical statements about the limits of fundamentalism and his political manoeuvrings don't somehow fit his persona very well."

This churchman spoke with affection, but not everyone does. "The whispering over the coffee cups is that Carey hasn't got the intellectual depth," said one critic. "Because he has no power he is left only with pious exhortation; he has a whingeing rather than a commanding style," said another. "It comes across as a curious mixture of arrogance with ignorance."

Critics offer many examples. They complain of Dr Carey failing to upbraid a senior Rwandan churchman for his role in endorsing massacres, of insensitive remarks in Russia hinting that falling church attendance was due to the fact that services lasted four hours, of his neglect in China of the underground churches that were

emerging from the shadows after keeping the faith alive for decades.

His supporters counter that Dr Carey is better in some places than others. "George is more successful in the evangelical provinces like Africa where he is more at home spiritually," said one. "He's less at home with Western cultural issues; theologically he's insufficiently subtle, so he comes out portentous and pompous. He's a populist evangelist. He should stick to that instead of trying to be a statesman."

Those who have travelled with Dr Carey consider all this rather unfair. "People base their opinions on what the press reports – and that is only the politics, which is a very small part of what these trips involve," said one. "Runcie was more diplomatic," said another aide, who has travelled with both men. "Carey goes in pretty strongly – the interview with Begin when he was Israeli prime minister was tough-going – but he's shrewd. He knows what he wants to say and the points get home."

All George Carey can do in response is carry on as best he can. Perhaps he can also draw comfort from the fact that Robert Runcie was denounced as a ditherer and a fudger while in Lambeth Palace, yet is now spoken of as an accomplished church politician who in the end outlasted his rival in Downing Street. As many real popes could tell him, history can sometimes be kinder than one's contemporaries.

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Confident Scottish aims to evade referral

TOM STEVENSON
City Editor

ScottishPower is confident of avoiding a monopolies inquiry into its £1.56bn bid for Southern Water which, if successful, would create Britain's first multi-utility with interests spanning electricity, gas, water and telecoms.

The bid was launched yesterday despite ScottishPower's failure to secure the recommendation of Southern's board for its cash and shares offer.

Southern, which appeared to have given up hopes of holding on to its independence following a 38 per cent surge in its share price, told its shareholders to sit tight while it talked to Southern Electric, which has also emerged as a potential bidder.

Southern Electric is understood to be increasingly keen to forge a deal following its failure to buy rival electricity company Swelb or sell itself to the gen-

erator, National Power. But doubts were growing in the City last night about its ability to match Scottish's offer with a deal that would almost double its size. It was also not clear that a merger of the two Southern would be politically acceptable as it would likely involve heavy job losses, whereas Scottish has stated that it will not impose any compulsory redundancies.

Murray Stuart, chairman of ScottishPower, said: "The merger will lead to increased sales of electricity, gas and water-related services, boost competition and enhance customer choice. We are confident it will deliver benefits to the shareholders of both ScottishPower and Southern Water."

Southern Electric declined to comment on when or whether it planned to return with a counter bid for Southern Water. Some analysts said the electricity supplier may pull out rather than start a bidding war

partly because the two Southern companies' territories do not really overlap, reducing the potential benefits of a merger.

The start of what could be an auction for Southern set off a wave of bid speculation throughout the water sector, with dealers on the look out for the next target. After Southern's shares jumped 260p to 941p, Anglian rose 32p to 572p and Wessex

closed 34p higher at 332p. Both are seen as likely targets.

Market sources also pointed to PowerGen and National Power as likely predators following the unexpected blocking last month of their attempted takeover bids for Midlands Electricity and Southern Electricity. Both Severn Trent and Thames Water are thought to be in their sights.

A merger of Yorkshire Electricity and Yorkshire Water is also expected, with the two having a closer customer fit than any other combination.

The bid for Southern Water would be the tenth takeover of a British utility in just 18 months, but only the second of a water company, the first being Lyonnaise des Eaux's bid for Northumbrian Water. Analysts

said Scottish's offer, worth 966p in cash, shares and dividend, with a 935.7p cash alternative, represented a relatively generous 12 times earnings compared with the 9 times paid by the French utility. Some believed the offer represented a knockout blow.

Shares in ScottishPower closed 17p lower at 319p, while Southern Electric finished 26p lower at 726p.

The bid by Scottish Power is its latest move in an ambitious attempt to create a powerful multi-utility group ahead of the opening up to competition of the gas and electricity markets from 1998. A takeover of Southern would give it a total of 5 million customers, to whom it could sell the full range of its services.

Scottish said there would be an "immediate and substantial enhancement" of its earnings per share and it promised shareholders a 16 per cent dividend hike to 18p a share in the year to March 1997 if the bid was successful.

Ian Russell, finance director, said he did not expect the bid to run into political or regulatory problems since, he claimed, it raised no competition issues. Analysts agreed, noting that if Ofwat, the water industry regulator, were to wave the bid through, the Government would be unlikely to refer it for a monopolies commission inquiry.

Only bids between water companies are automatically referred to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission, they added.

Scottish attempted to sweeten its offer in the eyes of the regulators by offering customers a 3 per cent reduction in their water bills for two years from April 1998. No similar demands were imposed on North West Water when it took over Norweb last year to create United Utilities, or on Welsh Water when it acquired Swalec.

Neither bid was referred and the Government has so far blocked only two bids, both of which involved generators bidding for regional electricity companies. National Power and PowerGen were stunned when their takeover plans were blocked. Both had been confident of approval after Scottish Power was given the go ahead to acquire Manweb, tacitly endorsing "vertical integration".

Comment, page 17

30% of energy sale for private investors

Private investors will be given the chance to buy at least 30 per cent of British Energy, the modern part of the UK nuclear industry, when it is privatised in July.

BZV, the stockbroker advising the Government on the sale, said small investors would be offered a discount on the price offered to City institutions.

But yesterday's announcement did not disclose how much of the company would be sold off, or how much the Government expected to raise from the controversial sale. Estimates of the company's market value have fallen to about £1.5bn from early valuations of £2.6bn.

More than 10,000 high street outlets, belonging to about 112 banks, building societies, stockbrokers and other financial institutions which have been

appointed as Share Shops, opened for registrations yesterday. The flotation is similar to the privatisation of Railtrack, which was floated last week on the stock market with a £1.9bn price tag.

Investors who registered in advance will receive special "incentives", details of which will be disclosed next week. Utilities analyst Nigel Hawkins, of

the Japanese bank Yamaichi, said he believed investors would be offered an early dividend based on the company's last year in state ownership.

British Energy will run the eight most modern advanced gas-cooled and pressurised water reactors. The eight old Magnox reactors, nearing the end of the lives, will remain in state ownership as Magnox Electric.

BT cuts business call costs

MATHEW HORSMAN

BT has cut its telephone charges to business by between 6 and 10 per cent as part of its commitment to OfTel, the telecoms regulator, to lower its prices to customers. The move means companies will pay a total of £220m a year less on their phone bills.

The reduced charges, unveiled yesterday, will be offered even to low-volume business users with quarterly bills of just £10 a quarter.

The new discounts are in addition to cuts of more than £1.1bn over three years, shared equally between residential and business customers, BT said.

The Telecommunications Users' Association welcomed the cuts, although it repeated its long-standing call for a reduction in the standard call charge.

"We always welcome improved pricing for telecom users and we particularly welcome the BT intention automatically to register the low volume user," Bill Mieran, TUA chairman, said.

Yesterday's announcement of further price cuts had been expected, and analysts said the effect on BT's earnings were fully reflected in BT's share price. Indeed, the shares closed ahead 5 1/2p at 340p.

About half of the £220m in lower charges has been brought forward from next year's Price Control benefit, with the increasing difficulty for them to undercut the dominant operator.

BT has been losing customers at the rate of about 50,000 a month to competing suppliers. The introduction of number portability over the next year is expected to increase the number of customers switching to lower-cost telecoms companies.

es have complained that they were unaware of discount schemes, and found it difficult to judge the best plan to use.

With the latest changes, virtually every call made by UK businesses will be eligible for some form of discount on BT's standard rate. Its business rates will be even lower if used with the company's "key numbers" feature, which allows customers to nominate 10 numbers on which an additional 5 per cent discount is applied.

All told, business discounts of up to 36 per cent off standard rates are now available to certain business customers, according to BT.

These latest cuts by BT follow changes to its "Friends & Family" scheme, introduced in April, which saw the abolition of the £4.99 joining fee and a doubling of the discount to 10 per cent.

BT said yesterday that 1.5m residential customers had joined the programme since March.

Cable operators, which compete directly with BT for telephone customers, gave a mixed reaction to the announcement.

"It was not unexpected, and we continue to offer very competitive rates compared to those of BT," said an executive at a leading operator.

But some cable companies are concerned that deep discounts by BT will make it increasingly difficult for them to undercut the dominant operator.

BT has been losing customers at the rate of about 50,000 a month to competing suppliers. The introduction of number portability over the next year is expected to increase the number of customers switching to lower-cost telecoms companies.

Lester Thurow sees industrial society heading for an explosion. Diane Coyle reports



The wages of inequality: Lester Thurow expects an eventual choice between upheaval in the market and upheaval in society. Photograph: Jane Baker

An optimist hoping for the markets' defeat

"I am not pessimistic," said Lester Thurow. "It's just that if the world changes, you have to change with it."

So the doyen of popular American economists, a professor at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, prefaces his analysis of the industrial society's ills. Massive inequality and unemployment will lead to growing social tension, the spread of protectionism, more religious fundamentalism, even the disappearance of entire nations, he predicts.

"Sooner or later the pressures will explode if conventional leaders do not come up with the answer. If 80 per cent of the people are making nothing from the economy, why should they vote for the economy?"

It perhaps helps Professor Thurow avoid pessimism that he has an answer. It is one that finds

almost no support in the treasuries and finance ministries of the industrialised countries today.

"We have to go back to higher growth. Cut interest rates and see what happens," he suggested.

To understand this conclusion, consider the subject of downsizing. Professor Thurow says the arithmetic is simple: "If I'm a businessman and my market is growing at 2 per cent but my productivity is growing at 6 per cent, I'm going to downsize."

Slow growth has made dangerous "five fundamental forces" affecting the industrialised economies, diagnosed in a new book, *The Future of Capitalism*, which he was publicising in London yesterday.

These five are: the fall of communism; the switch to brainpower-driven industries; demographic change; globalisation; and the absence of a dominant

world economic power for the first time in two centuries.

In case it is not yet clear, it should be emphasised that Professor Thurow is talking about the big picture. His confidence in painting it, borrowing from

The 'five forces' have combined to cut the wages of many workers

other disciplines such as psychology and sociology, sends shudders through more conventional and cautious economists.

But to return to the argument, in America the huge waves of redundancies have been mopped up by the creation of low-paid

jobs. Professor Thurow seems to admire the French for rioting when their government proposed public sector cuts smaller than those announced by the telephone giant AT&T. Americans, however, think they can work their way out of trouble and will accept a more lowly paid job.

"There has been a more inequitable income shift in the US during the past 20 years than any society has ever had without a revolution," he says. The bottom three-fifths of US incomes have at best stayed flat in real terms for the past quarter-century.

He is scathing about the excesses of executive pay. The ratio of top-to-average pay in US corporations has risen from 35:1 to 216:1 over the same period. Professor Thurow thinks the defeat of communism meant bosses shed all restraint. The "five forces" have combined to

cut the wages of many workers in the West through the channel of competition with vast low-paid markets in Asia.

Unlike many economists, he does not believe that new technology alone is destroying old jobs while creating not enough new ones. He is sure trade is to blame, and predicts that it will put downward pressure on pay in the industrial world for at least another generation.

Professor Thurow said he could understand why the President of the United States and other leaders do not want to take on the bond market, especially when social upheaval and unemployment have had few electoral repercussions. But eventually, he believes, there will be a choice between upheaval in the market and upheaval in society. The optimist in him thinks the markets will lose.

BA 'near to \$3.6bn deal' with American

DAVID USBORNE
New York

British Airways remained at the centre of speculation yesterday that it may be on the brink of a deal with American Airlines to create a giant alliance that would also see American swallowing its rival carrier, USAir, where BA has a 24.6 per cent stake.

Such a combination involving all three airlines would be worth some \$3.6bn (£2.4bn) and would create a colossus in the world aviation industry. By the same token, however, it would be certain to attract keen attention from government regulators concerned about protecting free competition.

Any tie-up is also certain to be contingent on a breakthrough in long-running talks between the British and United States government for an "open skies" agreement. Without such a pact, the US side is unlikely to offer the immunity from anti-trust regulations that a BA-American deal would need.

While neither BA nor American are commenting on the rumours, *Business Week* magazine yesterday quoted Patrick Murphy, a US assistant secretary for transportation, saying that executives feel that a deal "is reasonably close". The magazine reported also that BA and American were considering bolstering any agreement with equity swaps of up to 20 per cent.

The ingestion of USAir by American might seem logical on at least two fronts. Last week, Stephen Wolf, USAir's chief executive, told an annual general meeting that retaining the status quo was not an option for the company, which has the highest cost structure of any US carrier.

Wall Street analysts yesterday emphasised the scale of such a deal were it to happen. BA and American alone account for roughly half the passenger traffic between New York and London and 75 per cent of traffic between Miami and London.

John Maldutis of Salomon Brothers said: "[The deal] would raise very serious anti-trust concerns on the part of the US government... it would trigger the last merger movement in the aviation industry and TWA, Northwest, Continental would all be participants."

Separately, BA was reported to be close to sealing a \$2bn purchase of aircraft from Boeing involving some 30 models of its new 777 wide-body airliner, as well as a number of 747s. Boeing was also understood to be close to signing a similarly large deal with United Airlines.



Conde: Former chief faces possible 35-year prison term

'Black sheep' banker charged with Banesto fraud

ELIZABETH NASH
Madrid

The disgraced former chief of Banesto, Mario Conde, was charged yesterday with fraud, unlawful appropriation and the use of false procedures, more than two years after the near-collapse of his bank prompted Spain's most spectacular financial crisis.

If found guilty at the conclusion of a trial that looks set to last well into next year, Mr

Conde could face 35 years imprisonment. He has been under criminal investigation for months after Banesto, one of Spain's oldest and biggest banks, was brought to its knees in December 1993 with a multi-billion-pound deficit.

The bank was subsequently salvaged by Banco Santander in one of the biggest bank rescue operations ever mounted. What transformed the crisis into an international scandal was the

decision by the blue chip US investment bank JP Morgan to help Banesto raise US\$700m from the international markets before Banesto started to slide.

Seven other former Banesto directors were charged yesterday. Mr Conde's former deputy, Arturo Romani; Enrique Latorre; Rafael Perez; Ramiro Nunez; Fernando Garro; Juan Belloso; and Eugenio Martinez. The accused have just 24 hours to raise bail of a staggering

16bn pesetas (£80m) as a guarantee to cover possible damages. Yesterday Mr Conde's grim-faced lawyer said it would be "very difficult" for his client to raise that kind of money.

Once the glittering star of Spain's 1980s boom, Mr Conde rose from humble origins to reach the top of the Spanish social elite by storming one of its most aristocratic bastions. He seized the chairmanship of Banesto in a boardroom coup in

1987 and always denied being responsible for the subsequent "black hole" - a 605bn peseta capital shortfall created by over-valuation of the bank's assets.

Mr Conde was dismissed as Banesto's chairman by the Bank of Spain, the central bank, at the end of 1993 for "gross negligence" following allegations that he had created a web of intermediary companies that bought and sold assets within the Banesto group.

Mr Conde has said that he did not own or run the front companies in which he is accused of being a main shareholder and which made huge profits at Banesto's expense. He was imprisoned at the end of 1994 and freed on a record bail of £10m. In a book describing his stint at the bank, he wrote that he was subjected to a campaign of political dirty tricks and unjustifiably cast as the black sheep of Spanish banking.

STOCK MARKETS					
FT-SE 100	Don Jones*	Nikkei	FTSE 250	FTSE 350	FTSE 400
3780.20	+8.10	+0.2	3857.10	3639.50	4.01
3800	+14.40	+0.3	4568.60	4015.30	3.34
3780	+0.20	+0.2	1945.40	1816.60	3.86
3760	-1.97	-0.1	2241.97	1954.06	2.91
3740	+0.02	+0.2	1824.17	1791.95	3.78
3720	-39.90	-0.7	5778.00	5032.94	2.15
3700	+244.77	+1.1	22282.05	19734.70	0.73*
3680	+25.33	+0.2	11594.99	10204.67	3.30*
3660	+16.06	+0.6	2570.78	2284.86	1.86*

Source: FT Information

INTEREST RATES					
Short sterling*	UK medium gilt	US long bond	Money Market Rates	Bond Yields*	
1 Month	1 Year	Medium Term (%)	Year Ago	Long Term (%)	Year Ago
UK 5.31	5.38	8.04	7.90	8.16	7.95
US 5.38	5.94	8.86	6.29	6.85	6.66
Japan 0.47	0.84	3.20	2.82		
Germany 3.31	3.38	6.42	6.53	7.05	

CURRENCIES					
\$/£	\$/DM	\$/¥	Pound	Dollar	
1.5124	-0.05c	1.6003	£/London	0.6812	+0.02 0.6248
1.5126	+0.05c	1.6030	£/New York	0.6812	+0.02 0.6338
2.2415	+0.06c	2.2241	DM/London	1.5083	+0.69c 1.3899
164.278	+1.383	132.845	¥/London	108.625	+10.95 83.0160
85.1	+0.2	84.0	£/Index	97.9	+0.7 88.8

DTI petitions to wind up 'investment club'

The Department of Trade & Industry is petitioning in the High Court to have a so-called investment club wound up and the Official Receiver appointed as a liquidator, writes Clifford German.

Unlike pyramid selling schemes, there appears to be no actual product or service which members of the Titan Business Club are expected to sell, but potential investors are invited by word of mouth to attend confidential recruitment sessions in hotels around the country.

Although it calls itself an investment club, Titan is not subject to any of the established regulatory authorities. Sponsors pay introduction fees for new recruits they bring to meetings, where they are pressured to part with a fee of £2,500, which they can only recoup by introducing three or four more new members. Investors are also instructed to observe a strict confidentiality clause.

The DTI petition will not be heard until 26 June; the club continues to operate. If the application is successful, the club can be put out of business and the current directors disqualified for between two and 15 years.



COMMENT

The truth of the matter is that ScottishPower's takeover of Southern Water is little more than good old-fashioned empire-building.

Few will gain from the great utilities scramble

When Sir Desmond Pitcher, chairman of NorthWest Water, launched his bid for Norweb, City and press reaction was one of almost universal scepticism. True, the deal went through (the fees riding on it made sure of that), and since then the grandly renamed United Utilities has been able to identify benefits and cost savings even greater than those anticipated at the time. But the shares have gone nowhere. What that tells you is that while we might intellectually have come to accept the supposed logic of these multi-utility mergers, fundamentally we don't buy it.

The logic of these things is in any case superficial and debatable. In truth, the single utility company would appear to have few advantages over the present segregated structure. Most of us quite like the idea of a series of different utilities we can moan at. Information technology has also reduced the cost advantages of a single monolithic administrative and billing system over traditional stand-alone ones to virtually nil, however much they duplicate each other.

But the real question about these takeovers is whether they can be made to produce much in the way of shareholder value. This, after all, is meant to be the point of making acquisitions. Outside some one-off cost savings, the case has yet to be convincingly made.

Now the Scots are joining the fashion. Luck, favouritism and capricious policy-making mean that ScottishPower has already

become the only generator allowed to bid for a regional electricity distribution company. With yesterday's bid for Southern Water, the Scottish utility invasion is taking a stage further deep into the southern counties of England.

On the face of it, this is a takeover even sillier than that of NorthWest Water for Norweb. At least those two companies had the advantage of the same geographical franchises. A combination of Scottish, Manweb and Southern Water doesn't even have that. So what is the purpose of what, even by ScottishPower's own admission, are the very generous terms being offered to Southern Water shareholders? Don't be stupid. It's obvious. It is the creation of "a leading multi-utility business serving 5 million customers".

Er, right.

Moreover, the company promises to "grow sales of electricity and gas in southern England, thereby enhancing competition in regulated utilities, and will compete for sewerage projects in Scotland". Great. So management gets to sock it to British Gas and the local regional electricity company. With a bit of luck it also gets to wash its hands in Strathclyde's dirty water too. Oh, and Southern Water customers will receive a 3 per cent reduction in permitted prices. And what about shareholders? "We are confident it will deliver benefits to the shareholders of both ScottishPower and Southern Water", says Ian Robinson, chief executive of ScottishPower. Yes, and? Well, he adds

somewhat desperately, it will be earnings-enhancing. That's just fine then. Never mind the fact that earnings enhancement has been the bottom-line rationale for some of the most disastrous takeovers and mergers of all time. Financial engineering alone does not a takeover strategy make.

The truth of the matter is that this takeover is little more than good old-fashioned empire-building. Probably, though not necessarily, it is a relatively harmless example of the genre. It is hard to go far wrong with a regional water monopoly, which unlike gas and electricity can never be opened up to competition. There is, however, the little matter of regulatory risk. If British Gas is anything to go by, Scottish is buying at the top of the market. The great lesson from gas is get out before the regulator moves in.

It would be naive to think that comment of this sort is going to halt the deal. So confident are Scottish and its advisers of their ground that they are able without any hint of self-doubt to use the very same arguments to support their transaction that were used to mock NorthWest, and to a lesser extent Welsh Water, when they launched their own "multi-utility" takeovers. What? A single company to provide you with your electricity, gas, water, telephone and giro cheque? And why not? says Mr Robertson.

It is a fair bet, as the stock market readily appreciated yesterday, that he won't be the last to say it. As likely as not, PowerGen

and National Power, now banned from further expansion in their own industry, will be following him. The consolidation of Britain's utilities thus becomes like the great colonial carve-up of Africa. We must all have our bits, said Britain, France and Germany. And did it, ultimately, do anyone any good? Of course it didn't.

Sir Colin prepares to face boarders

Is Sir Colin Southgate going to get the licence to see in his retirement at EMI? The betting in the stock market, where shares in the soon-to-be-demerged Thorn EMI got buffeted almost daily by takeover rumour, is that he will not. Once the glamorous music side, EMI is separated from the distinctly unglamorous Thorn TV rental interests, then someone is bound to come in and snap it up, runs the theory. Sir Colin is robustly sceptical of such theories but it is hard to tell what this actually means. His dismissiveness, for instance, may be no more than bravado, a deterrent to those prepared to give it a go.

Sir Colin's fruitless merger talks with Bertelsmann, the German media group, although not initiated by him, smack of defensiveness and have done nothing to discourage the speculation. The Bertelsmann talks, which broke down a couple of months ago, became known as a result of a chance

encounter between a *Financial Times* reporter and Sir Colin as he left a meeting with Bertelsmann's Michael Dornemann in Guetersloh, where the German group is based. Challenged by the reporter, Sir Colin was forced to concede at least an element of what he was doing there.

As it turned out, the talks were going nowhere fast. Bertelsmann was the bigger company, but EMI by far the more profitable. Bertelsmann, a privately owned concern, had that wonderful German characteristic of believing that there are some things in business more important than profit. This didn't sit very easily with Mr Dornemann's real priority - "we want control". It can be seen this was not a deal Sir Colin would have found very easy to sell to shareholders - they would have been left as a minority in a bid-proof company interested in rather grander things than making profits.

Now that reality would have brought the likes of Disney, Viacom, Seagram, or any one of a host of other rumoured suitors down on his back. The question is whether any of them might be prepared to do it anyway. Even at the present rumour-inflated price, there is a case for saying that Thorn EMI is cheap. Few large businesses can boast the prospect of double-digit earnings growth into the indefinite future. Thorn too will probably prove a more attractive business than the stock market gives it credit for. Sir Colin may yet have to spend a good deal of his time repelling boarders.

NatWest considers sale of 3i holding

MAGNUS GRIMOND

NatWest, one of the last remaining founding shareholders in the venture capital group 3i said yesterday it was considering the sale of its 17.7 per cent stake.

News of the possible disposal caused 3i's shares to slip 15p to 452p. It leaves only Barclays and the Bank of Scotland of the original backers still holding shares in the group, which was founded in 1945 to fill a funding gap for small businesses.

NatWest said any sale, which would be subject to market conditions, would take place after 3i announced its annual results on 6 June. Through holdings inherited from its constituent banks, NatWest has been the largest shareholder for a large part of 3i's existence.

Despite the fall in its share price yesterday, 3i put a brave face on the decision. Brian Lombe, finance director, said: "We welcome the proposal and we believe it will enhance liquidity. The feedback we have had from a number of brokers is that liquidity could be improved and this move would be genuinely helpful."

However, analysts were divided on the merits of the sale. One said: "This gives NatWest an opportunity to sell the shares without having as much of an impact on the share price." He said it was unlikely that NatWest would sell all of its current holding. "Any client that's

done as well as NatWest have in these shares would be quite reluctant to sell them all," he said. "I'd be surprised if they didn't keep 5 per cent."

But other observers suggested that 3i's share price could suffer as a result of the potential overhang of the stake being put up for sale. One analyst said: "Our view is that the shares were too high. Someone was going to sell but any significant discount to the market is an opportunity for people to pick them up. Good figures, a good economy and an improving backdrop for small companies is an opportunity to sell."

The divestment will take the form of a secondary market transaction and will be aimed primarily at institutional investors, NatWest said. But in an attempt to prevent potential buyers depressing the price by selling shares in advance of the offering, the banking group warned that the 3i share register and market was now being monitored by NatWest Securities and de Zoete & Bevan, brokers to any sale. Net purchasers of 3i shares between now and the sale will be favoured in the allocation of shares, NatWest said. Private investors will be able to apply for shares through financial intermediaries.

Several banks took the opportunity to sell at the time of 3i's flotation in July 1994 and most of them left the share register in a secondary offering in June last year.

IN BRIEF

• The Securities and Futures Authority has barred former Barings Bank finance director Geoffrey Broadhurst from working as a manager or director of an investment bank for three years. The regulator said Mr Broadhurst would pay £10,000 towards its costs and said the ex-finance boss failed to act with "due skill, care and diligence". In its judgment the SFA said Mr Broadhurst had failed to investigate the nature of a £50m unauthorised transaction and had tried to persuade the auditors to avoid referring to it. Mr Broadhurst became financial controller of Barings Brothers and then finance director of Barings Singapore in February 1992, the same year trader Nick Leeson, whose dealings brought down Barings, went to the Far East country.

• Consumer confidence has dipped in the US this month according to the Conference Board's index. It slipped to 101.2 from an revised 104.8 in April, although it remained well above the 1995 average. Respondents were cheerful about current conditions but more apprehensive about future growth and job creation. On the other hand, housing sales rose unexpectedly in April, returning to their highest level since December 1993.

• Nissan, Japan's second-biggest carmaker, returned to the black last year thanks to brisk domestic sales and cost-cutting, but losses lingered in the group as a whole. At the parent level, Nissan made a ¥32.4bn (\$30m) pre-tax profit in the year to March after a loss of ¥61.1bn the previous year. The result was in line with analysts' forecasts and exceeded Nissan's own prediction of a ¥25bn profit. Nissan stayed in the red on a group basis, though the net annual loss was halved to ¥88.4bn. Its bottom line was also helped by higher domestic car sales following the introduction of a key safety device - a driver's-side air bag as standard in models sold in Japan - and the Japanese launch of several popular models.

• French households spent less last month, their third month of belt-tightening. Household consumption of manufactured goods fell 1.4 per cent, with the weakness concentrated in durable goods in general and cars in particular. Car sales dived 7.8 per cent in April, although they had risen 20 per cent in January thanks to an incentive scheme. The drop in April's household spending was bigger than expected and does not bode well for the overall strength of consumer expenditure, economists said.

• A bill to partially privatise French state-owned telecommunications group France Telecom will be discussed in a cabinet meeting in Paris this morning. An earlier draft said France Telecom would be turned into a limited company from 1 January 1997, making a partial sale possible from that date and leaving the state with 51 per cent stake. Any possible cross-holdings with Germany's Deutsche Telekom will take place after that.

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business

Plysu feels its margins squeezed

At first glance, the average investor might be forgiven for thinking the packaging company Plysu should be doing rather well. It commands over 60 per cent of the UK market for plastic milk bottles, an area which is growing at around 20 per cent a year as British households turn their backs on the doorstep pint in favour of super-market supplies.

But Plysu is in an uncomfortable position as a small company squeezed between the giant suppliers of its plastic raw materials and the huge supermarket chains which buy its containers.

A 13 per cent growth in volumes, boosted by milk containers plus some small acquisitions, helped lift last year's profits to March from £5.47m to £8.02m, before an exceptional £1.1m rationalisation charge. Profits remain well short of the £10.8m they hit in 1992/93, but last year's small uptick should give some comfort to shareholders who have seen the company caught in a vice between store chains which have until recently used milk as a loss leader and soaring prices for high density polyethylene.

Recent increases in milk prices and the introduction of a new plastic pint container for Tesco is providing some grounds for hope that the pressure from customers is easing. Meanwhile, the collapse in HDPE prices from the second quarter helped Plysu to widen its margins from 4.5 per cent to 7.5 per cent between the two halves of last year.

Even so, the respite may prove temporary. Continued attention to costs looks like remaining a feature of UK retailing, while raw materials prices have been on the rise again since the turn of the year. Plysu's attempts to address this issue are unlikely to inspire.

The company has been pioneering an in-house bottle making plant for Dairy Crest since the end of 1995 and is confident that it will repay the £3m cost within the life of the contract of over four years. But this and other similar initiatives will merely protect otherwise threatened margins.

Elsewhere, Plysu's market shares of between 10 and 17 per cent in industrial chemicals, agrochemicals and automotive packaging products are not going to give it much clout against multinationals like Unilever and the big oil groups which are increasingly demanding pan-European sourcing. Apart from one or two areas, like a multi-layered container for toxic chemicals, the company is mainly involved in commodity-type products, with few barriers to entry. The best option for shareholders would be a merger between Plysu and one or more of its smaller brethren to give it more critical mass.

THE INVESTMENT COLUMN

EDITED BY TOM STEVENSON

Assuming volumes maintain last year's growth, profits could hit £9.4m in 1995/96, putting the shares at 189p, down 1p, on a forward multiple of 14. That looks high enough.

Cairns holds eastern promise

Cairn Energy's annual general meeting was a bit of a damp squib yesterday. The company had nothing to say about its interesting gas find offshore Bangladesh, although it could be argued that investors have had excitement enough this year so far. The shares have almost doubled from below 120p to yesterday's unchanged price of 234p on hopes for the Sangu field.

Last month, Cairn announced the results of a second well which confirmed the presence of gas in the main zone of the field and the prospect of a deeper area containing reserves. But it was the forecast of much lower production costs which got City analysts going. The company now expects that

developing the wells, putting a production platform in place and building a distribution pipeline to bring the gas from Sangu to the Bangladesh market will cost around \$100m and not the \$275m analysts had originally pencilled in. Irene Himona of Société Générale Strauss Turnbull upped her net assets per share valuation of Cairn from 209p to 312p on the strength of the much reduced production costs.

Bangladesh may not sound exciting from a Western standpoint, but even though it ranks amongst the world's poorest nations, the population of up to 120 million still represents a sizeable market. Cairn reckons it will be supplying around 200 million cubic feet of gas a day by 1998, which compares with current national production of around 700 million cubic feet.

That should be easily absorbed by the state-run gas company and there is scope for further upside from here. Cairn could still tie in a contract to supply gas to India if it can satisfy the Bangladeshi government that local demand has been met. Meanwhile, there could be more discoveries to

come. Cairn is sitting on the equivalent of 75 North Sea blocks offshore Bangladesh.

But there is more to Cairn than Bangladesh. Last year's results proved that the group had come of age. Daily production from the UK and Netherlands jumped from 4,900 barrels of oil equivalent to 5,800 and profits edged up from £9.39m to £9.98m. The shares are a firm hold.

Blacks scales new peaks

It has been a volatile few years at Blacks Leisure, the camping and sports retailer run by Simon Bentley. The company has slipped in and out of loss, cut its dividend and completely overhauled the business.

But things have taken a dramatic turn for the better in the last 12 months. The shares have more than quadrupled in the past year and shot up a further 14p to 144p yesterday.

The reversal of fortune owes something to the popularity of branded sportswear, with companies such as Nike and Reebok pumping millions into sponsorship and advertising.

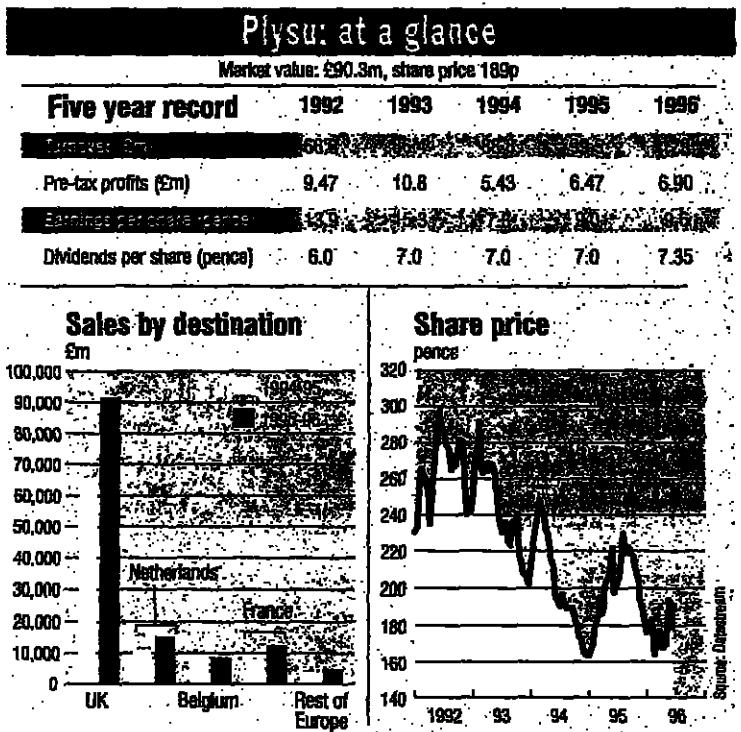
But internal re-structuring has helped too. The company has sold most of the distribution businesses, including the troublesome Quaker football boot brand which forced Blacks into loss at the half-time stage last year. The next candidate for disposal is Miss Sam, a loss-making clothing manufacturer which makes garments for childrenswear retailers such as Tammy.

That should leave Blacks focused on retailing through three chains, First Sport, Blacks Leisure and Active Venture, all of which are going well as yesterday's full-year profits demonstrated.

Profits jumped from £610,000 to £2.2m in the year to February. Like-for-like sales rose by 22 per cent across the group, a rise hardly anyone on the high street can match. Sales are up by a further 25 per cent in the 12 weeks since the year end, though it is hard to see this level being sustained.

All three retail formats are set for expansion, with 12 more branches of First Sport to be opened this year. Two or three branches of Blacks Leisure, the outdoor leisure stores, will be added and an extra £1m spent on refurbishments.

Williams de Broe is forecasting profits of £5.4m, which puts the shares on a forward rating of 12. This is still a discount to rivals. But if you bought shares at any time in the last four years, it is perhaps time to take some profits.



NatWest feels the risks of bricks and mortar

CITY DIARY

NIGEL COPE

Problems for NatWest after some scaffolding fell off one of its buildings in central London yesterday, causing some astonishment though no injury to passers-by. The office block in question is in St James Square and used to house a NatWest branch. It is now being refurbished and developed into new office buildings which the bank hopes to let out. The work took a setback yesterday when three tiers of scaffolding collapsed into the road bringing with it a large quantity of rubble.

One of the construction team was taken to hospital (cut hand) and a passing vehicle was damaged (wing mirror). "We are just relieved it was nothing more serious," a NatWest spokesman said.

Laurence Isaacson, the frustrated thespian who runs the Chez Gerard restaurant group, will be in his element tonight at the company's 10th anniversary celebrations. The RADA reject is staging a production of *Dames at Sea*, a spoof of a 1930s tap dance musical, at the Ambassador Theatre. Stars of the show will be Peter Duncan, the former *Blue Peter* presenter, and Sarah Crow, the blonde one in the Philadelphia cheese advert. Both can sing, Mr Isaacson says. After that it's all back to the Opera Terrace bar and restaurant in Covent Garden for champagne and canapés. "Having failed to get into RADA the next best



The Solihull farmer who turned his cows into mobile advertising boards after the BSE scare made them impossible to sell has enjoyed a welcome boost to revenue streams. One of the cows delivered a calf last night almost as soon as the prying eyes of the cameras had departed. The proud mother was sponsored by Ben & Jerry, the ice cream maker. The man from Ben & Jerry missed the happy event, having de-camped to a nearby brewery after several hours trying to pin their adverts to the bovine billboards. The company has not yet decided if it will advertise on the calf. It's too small, apparently.

thing is trying to put on a show," Mr Isaacson reckons.

The Co-Operative Retail Society, the reliably old-fashioned provider of funeral arrangements and supermarkets, has caught the design bug and got itself a new logo, pictured below. Quite an expensive one too, if its chosen designer is anything to go by. It is none other than Wolff Olins, the outfit that has dreamt up whizzy new identities for BT and Orange, among others. CRS chief executive Harry Moore seems so taken by the image that he has tilted heading into designpeak. "The real value of the new identity is centred on the transformation of the word 'co-operative' from a passive noun to an active adjective." What is he on about?

Andrew Fowler, the food retail analyst at UBS who crooked his knee playing football several weeks ago, is struggling to regain his fitness in time for Euro '96. The boy Fowler (no relation to Robbie) has been hobbling around on crutches after a tricky post-BSE results fiasco in April. The UBS five-a-side team has had to draft in a replacement goalkeeper though Fowler's cat-like reflexes are sorely missed. "He's left a big hole at the back," a teammate says.



co-operative

No longer passive: A more active Co-operative

Market gets set for flood of new issues

TOM STEVENSON
City Editor

The continued strength of the new issues market was further underlined yesterday as a flood of companies announced plans to float or were being tipped to jump to sizeable premiums trading in their shares begins.

In particular, the junior Alternative Investment Market continued to defy its detractors with the announcement of further additions to its growing ranks, while speculation mounted that Dairy Crest will today shrug off the BSE crisis to announce flotation plans along with its final results.

Whitecross Group will become the first chain of dental practices to float in London following a placing of 24 per cent of its enlarged capital, which values the company at almost £3.5m, raising £825,000 of new money to fund further expansion.

The company is one of only a few authorised to operate dental practices, which must normally be run by dentists as sole traders or partnerships. Its emergence follows a significant change in NHS funding for dental care over the past 10 years.

The result of that has been a material increase in the part of the cost of treatment borne by

the fee-paying patient rather than the Government. That in turn has changed the patient from a passive user of a service to a buyer.

Whitecross has grown from one to six practices, all in London, with a total of 28 treatment rooms. All are located in shop-front premises on the high street, reflecting the new emphasis on retailing disciplines. Nine more sites are planned over the next five years.

The company made a pre-tax loss of £264,000 in the year to December 1995 and financial projections forecast further losses this year and next but profits thereafter. Dealings in the shares begin on Thursday.

Whittards, the tea and coffee retailer, also announced plans to join AIM yesterday and said it had ambitions to become "a category killer in quality tea and coffee, mugs and teapots." The company's float will value it at about £20m and raise a further £3m for expansion.

Will Holthouse, the managing director, who owns a third of the shares, said the group wanted to double its 79-strong shop network over the next five years while continuing its growth overseas.

Founded in 1886, Whittards only had three London stores until it began a rapid roll-out in the late 1980s. It now has shops stretching from Exeter to Edin-

burgh, as well as in France, Poland, Taiwan and Japan. It claims a 14 per cent share of a market dominated by Twinnings.

Meanwhile, dealings begin this week in three issues with high hopes for strong debuts. Independent Energy, which sells electricity direct to business users, will be valued at £13.1m when it joins AIM on Friday.

Broker Peel Hunt is placing 3.23 million shares at 100p each, a quarter of the enlarged equity to raise money to expand Independent's sales and marketing effort and to switch existing gas reserves into electricity by developing power generating plants.

Prism Rail, which has gained

a 15-year franchise to run the London, Tilbury & Southend railway service, dubbed the "Mystery Line", is expected to open at a large premium when its shares start trading on AIM today. The company will become the first publicly quoted train operator since the railways were nationalised in 1947. The placing, which will raise £8m at 100p, was oversubscribed.

A good stock market reception is also planned for Recognition, a "neural computing" group, which is expected to go to as much as a 20p premium on the 70p placing price when dealings in the shares begin today. The placing values the group at £19m.

Unit trust sales rise to record

NIC CICUTTI

Sales of unit trusts and personal equity plans reached record levels in April, according to new figures from the industry's trade body yesterday.

Retail unit trust sales rose to £1.1bn, about £10m above last month's total, while net sales of PEPs touched £1.08bn, the highest total ever. The number of accounts also reached record levels, rising by 250,000 to 7 million.

The increase in sales came despite the start of a new tax year, traditionally seen as marking an end to the ritual tax-planning investment frenzy in the run-up to the 5 April deadline.

However, the figures from the Association of Unit Trusts and Investment Funds (AUTIF) also showed that net sales to institutions, at £19m, picked up only slightly last month compared with an outflow of £64m in March.

Despite gross sales of £800m, institutional sell-offs, including £194m from the Far East sector, excluding Japan, brought net sales down.

Autif said the decline suggested that although individual savers were warming to unit trusts and PEPs after a sales fall in 1995, big institutions may be more in tune with where the UK and world's stock markets are headed in the coming year.

The trade body added that savers' money was pouring into unit trusts as an alternative to lower-yielding building society investments.

Deutsche under fire amid fraud allegations

PATRICK TOOHER

Deutsche Bank, Germany's biggest commercial bank, was plunged into fresh controversy yesterday when Klockner-Humboldt-Deutz, a household name in German engineering, warned its survival was threatened following the discovery of an alleged multi-million pound fraud at a subsidiary.

KHD, where Deutsche is the largest shareholder with a 47.7 per cent stake following a huge financial rescue package last year, said book-keeping "irregularities" at its Humboldt-Wedag plant construction unit had been unearthed on Friday which would result in unexpected losses running to "several hundred million" marks.

The episode is the latest in a series of embarrassments for Deutsche and its chairman, Hilmar Kopper, that have

raised doubts about the German system of corporate governance where banks, through their large industrial shareholdings, wield considerable influence on companies by being represented on their supervisory boards and also creditors.

In particular, Deutsche was closely associated with the near-collapse of metals group Metallgesellschaft, the bankruptcy of the Juergen Schneider real estate group and the record losses run up by Daimler-Benz, Germany's largest industrial group.

In a statement, KHD blamed several board members at the subsidiary, a number of employees and "outside third parties" for the cover-up of the losses stretching back to 1993.

A spokesman for Deutsche declined to reveal the size of the bank's exposure to loss-making KHD. "There is no official figure," he said. However, press

reports say Deutsche provided more than half the DM830m (£356m) capital injection that helped save KHD last year.

While analysts speculated that Deutsche would have to throw another lifeline to KHD, the bank said it was too early to dismiss a possible bail-out. "We will have to wait until we have further information before we decide what to do," the spokesman added. Trading in KHD shares was suspended yesterday.

"KHD has been a basket case for some time," said one analyst. "But the latest developments again raise questions about the general level of competence of Deutsche Bank."

News of KHD's latest difficulties overshadowed strong four-month figures from Deutsche. Helped by its London-based investment arm Morgan Grenfell, group net profit rose 32 per cent to DM770m.



Hilmar Kopper: Deutsche Bank's role in KHD overshadowed strong figures Photograph: Reuters

Compagnie UAP to sell off Sun Life shares

NIC CICUTTI

Shares in Sun Life, the UK life insurer with more than £19bn of funds under management, are to be sold to both private and institutional investors, netting its French owner, Compagnie UAP, about £500m.

The partial sale of Sun Life and Provincial Holdings, which also includes UAP Provincial, a general insurance subsidiary, and New Ireland, a life and pensions provider in the Republic of Ireland, will take place next month.

Analysts yesterday valued the combined company at about £1.3bn, suggesting that UAP may retain about 55 per cent of the firm under its direct control. The deadline for retail offers will be 10 June, with the allocation of shares taking place 11 days later.

Private investors will be able to bid for shares in the combined holding, with a minimum investment of £1,000. However, Michael Hart, chief executive of UAP and Provincial, said yesterday that he did not see the

partial flotation as one for investors to draw large instant profits from.

"I hope this is not a staggering issue," Mr Hart said. "The offer price will be very far above what is a good after-market. But this is not the sort of offer that should involve staggering. This is a good business with a long track record."

UAP's decision to seek a partial flotation follows a similar strategy to the one adopted towards other subsidiaries it owns in Germany and Belgium.

Mr Hart said the aim was to enhance Sun Life's profile and also to provide the company with greater flexibility.

The proceeds from the offer will repay a loan to UAP and reduce Sun Life's other borrowings.

Sun Life is one of the top five life assurance companies, as measured by its 1995 regular and single premium. Last year, it made pre-tax profits of £90.2m, while gross premium income stood at £1.66bn. The company receives 80 per cent

of its business through independent financial advisers.

UAP Provincial is the 13th largest non-specialist UK insurer and reported pre-tax profits of £64.2m last year. New Ireland is the second-largest life and pensions provider in the Republic of Ireland and posted pre-tax profits of IR£10.4m in 1995.

Sun Life and Provincial Holdings has been totally owned by its French parent since 1995 when it bought out a 50 per cent stake from Transatlantic, the US insurer, for about £525m.

IN BRIEF

• Allders will be left with net cash of £60m following the £130m sale of its international duty free arm to BAA, which observers think might be ploughed into a special dividend or share buyback. The deal will go through despite a rival bid from Swissair. Chairman John Pattison said yesterday he had locked out a £145m offer from the Swiss arguing that the BAA bid was the only unconditional offer on the table. The decision to accept the lower bid surprised the City and sparked a war of words between Schroders and SBC Warburg, advisers to the two sides.

• Proudfoot said it expected operating profits for the current year would match those of 1995, excluding exceptional costs. Addressing its annual meeting yesterday, the company said operating margins would benefit from the elimination of remaining unprofitable revenue activities. However, it warned that order intake was below budget and new work this year was tending to favour low fee and therefore lower margin countries.

• J Smart anticipates that profits in the second half of the current year will at least match those in the first six months. However, the company said that the volume of contracting work in hand is lower than at this time last year. Unveiling profits raised from £1.21m to £1.32m for the six months to January, John Smart, chairman, said: "As reported at the end of last year the proportion of design and construct package deal contracts has increased. However, prices obtainable are still unacceptably low." The interim dividend is being raised from 2.4p to 2.5p.

• Ruberoid told shareholders that trading conditions in the US remain healthy, but markets in Europe have been particularly affected by the severe weather in the first quarter. As a result, although the balance of profitability in the continuing businesses is weighted towards the second half of the year, the imbalance between the two halves is likely to be greater than normal in 1996.

• Queens Meat Houses' first four months of the current year have shown satisfactory progress in the UK, but there has been persistently difficult trading in Germany, France and Belgium. Speaking to shareholders, Stanley Metcalfe, chairman, said progress in the UK had been led by an improving works performance. In continental Europe, the company has continued to emphasise cost efficiency in view of the persistently difficult trading conditions in Germany, which are also evident in France and Belgium. Mr Metcalfe said an encouraging advance has been made in the Netherlands.

• Blick, the electronics group, moved into Europe for the first time yesterday with the acquisition for £38.5m of Teletronics, which had distributed Blick products for several years. Blick said the deal, which involves a £3.7m cash payment and the issue of 200,000 shares, would be earnings enhancing. Last year the Dutch group reported pre-tax profits of £805,000 with net assets of £1.76m.

• Omnicare's shares were suspended on the Alternative Investment Market yesterday, pending the reverse takeover of colostomy bag distributor Amcare in a deal which could be worth up to £5m. The deal will be funded by a placing and open offer of shares at 110p and they are expected to resume trading after an extraordinary meeting next month.

• Brightstone Properties is abandoning plans to appoint Luke Johnson to its board following an improved offer from fellow property tiddler Clarke Nickolls & Coombs. CNC and Brightstone said they were discussing a recommended all-share bid valuing Brightstone at £9.2m or 131.75p a share. Johnson, who planned to subscribe for up to 30 per cent of the shares, has withdrawn his offer.

• GWR, the commercial radio group, yesterday announced the sale of Isle of Wight radio to the Local Radio Company for £860,000, payable in cash and loan notes. Cash of £303,000 will be payable upon completion and added to the company's balances.

COMPANY RESULTS

	Turnover £	Pre-tax £	EPS	Dividend
Admiral (Q)	488m (57.1m)	8.0m (16.9m)	2.5p (11.3p)	2.4p (2.4p)
Blacks Leisure (Q)	62.4m (65.0m)	2.11m (0.81m)	5.54p (1.62p)	2.5p (2.25p)
Design Group (Q)	15.1m (17.0m)	5.83m (0.85m)	52.88p (8.57p)	10p (1.75p)
Pryor (Q)	129m (90.9m)	6.5m (0.8m)	9.6p (8p)	7.50p (7p)
Summit (Q)	0.05m (7.5m)	1.32m (1.21m)	0.77p (0.84p)	2.5p (2.4p)

(Q) - Final (Q) - Interim

Foreign Exchange Rates

COUNTRY	Spot	1 month		3 months		D-MARK Spot
		1 month	3 months	1 month	3 months	
US	1524	9-7	24-21	10-00		09495
Canada	12898	1-7	50-47	137-95	-1-4	5-0
Germany	2345	45-6	135-16	154-83	25-24	84-81
France	7595	129-130	43-40	53-55		217-207
Italy	23365	155-16	221-248	533-2	57-64	170-182
Japan	153	75-70	24-22	30-28	1-1	100-93
EDU	12379	15-11	45-40	127-18	7-8	25-25
Belgium	1423	12-9	34-29	31-50	5-5	16-16
Denmark	56416	175-183	325-336	537-65	275-273	203-55
Netherlands	13185	10-10	31-28	32-28	1-1	10-10
Ireland	05917	10-5	24-19	15-20	4-7	12-17
Norway	1612	10-14	32-29	65-53	4-7	10-10
Sweden	8474	10-10	35-30	65-58	25-27	84-74
Switzerland	1630	35-35	74-58	63-58	25-27	84-74
UK	12771	10-10	35-30	65-58	25-27	84-74
Australia	1827	86-58	19-14	127-13	37-34	107-102
New Zealand	13034	20-31	31-25	65-58	25-27	84-74
Hong Kong	100	0-0	0-0	77-77	0-1	100-93
Malaysia	27759	0-0	0-0	24-26	1-4	80-80
New Zealand	23377	45-57	33-35	14-58	36-38	88-80
Saudi Arabia	18720	0-0	0-0	37-35	2-1	9-14
Singapore	22970	0-0	0-0	40-38	4-30	24-22

Country	Starting	Dollar	Country	Sterling	Dollar
Argentina	150.00	1.00	Mexico	97.00	\$4,000
Australia	16.00	0.85	Nigeria	13.00	1.00
Brazil	120.00	0.50	Peru	20.00	1.00
Canada	0.25	0.70	Portugal	20.00	94.75
Spain	1.00	2.00	Spain	16.00	99.00
France	5.00	3.40	Switzerland	2.00	95.00
Germany	2.00	3.40	Taiwan	1.00	95.00
Greece	24.00	1.00	Thailand	1.00	95.00
India	1.00	1.00	Turkey	1.00	95.00
Italy	1.00	1.00	U.S.	1.00	95.00
Japan	1.00	1.00	U.K.	1.00	95.00

*Forward market quoted; light to dark are at discount.
 †Quoted from source.
 ‡Quoted to right as at a premium; light to dark are at discount.

Tourist Rates

E Baye	E Baye	E Baye			
Australia(Dollars)	15,0425	France(Francs)	783000	New Zealand(Dollars)	236000
Austria(Schillings)	18,5000	Germany(Mark)	2,2560	Norway(Krone)	82000
Belgium(Francs)	2,0000	Italy(Lira)	360000	Poland(Zloty)	330,0000
Canada(Dollars)	2,0250	Hong Kong(Dollars)	71,3000	Spain(Pesetas)	185,2500
Cyprus(Pounds)	60,9500	Denmark(Crown)	560000	Sweden(Kronor)	90000
Denmark(Crown)	7,2500	Japan(Yen)	230,0000	Switzerland(Francs)	11,8250
Holland(Gulden)	25,8300	Japan(Yen)	551,5000	Thailand(Baht)	109,440000
Finland(Markka)	75,4000	Malaysia(Ringgit)	0,5400	United States(Dollars)	1,6750

UK	600%	Germany	250%	US	Prime	475%	Japan	Discount	050%
Basis		Discount	400%	Discount	500%	Switzerland	Discount	250%	
Base		Canada		Fixed Funds	525%	Denmark	Discount	330%	
Interest	370%	Price	700%	Spain		10-Day Repo	750%		
Italy		5.00%		Sweden		Switzerland			
Discount	800%	Denmark		Repo (Avg)	670%	Discount	150%		
Netherlands		Discount	325%			Lombard	425%		
Americas	250%								

Bond Yields

Country	5 yr	Yield %	10 yr	yield %	Country	5 yr	Yield %	10 yr	yield %
UK	0%	7.20	0.10	8.01	Netherlands	0%	5.30	0%	6.31
US	0.04%	6.44	0.16	6.38	Spain	0.03%	5.32	0.15%	6.50
Austria	0.6%	5.10	3%	3.33	Italy	0.14%	6.65	0.25%	6.51
Japan	0.01%	4.70	0%	3.79	Belgium	0.13%	5.50	7%	6.66
Germany	0.10%	5.28	0%	6.42	Sweden	0%	7.01	0%	6.40
France	0.5%	5.48	0.15%	6.16	Yield calculated on total bonds	0.17%	5.67	0.77%	6.46

Sources: BEIC; BankAmerica Research

Money Market Rates

	Overnight	7 Day	1 Month	3 Months	6 Months	1 Year
Interbank	5 - 6 1/4	5 1/4 - 6	5 1/4 - 6	6 1/4 - 6 1/2	6 1/4 - 6 1/2	6 1/4 - 6 1/2
Starting CDs	5 - 6 1/4	5 1/4 - 6	5 1/4 - 6	6 1/4 - 6 1/2	6 1/4 - 6 1/2	6 1/4 - 6 1/2
Local Authority Depos	5 1/4 - 6	5 1/4 - 6	5 1/4 - 6	6 1/4 - 6 1/2	6 1/4 - 6 1/2	6 1/4 - 6 1/2
Discount Market Depos	5 1/4 - 6	5 1/4 - 6	5 1/4 - 6	6 1/4 - 6 1/2	6 1/4 - 6 1/2	6 1/4 - 6 1/2
Treasury Bills (Buy)	5 1/4 - 6	5 1/4 - 6	5 1/4 - 6	6 1/4 - 6 1/2	6 1/4 - 6 1/2	6 1/4 - 6 1/2
Dollar CDs	5 1/4 - 6	5 1/4 - 6	5 1/4 - 6	6 1/4 - 6 1/2	6 1/4 - 6 1/2	6 1/4 - 6 1/2
CDs Limited Dep	5 1/4 - 6	5 1/4 - 6	5 1/4 - 6	6 1/4 - 6 1/2	6 1/4 - 6 1/2	6 1/4 - 6 1/2

Liffe Financial Futures

Contract		Settlement price	High/Low for day	Estimate traded	Open interest
Long Gilt	(Jun 98)	106.11	106.10 - 105.09	37371	83326
German Bond	(Jun 98)	193.77	97.95	37691	143537
3M Euro	(Sep 98)	105.77	105.77 - 105.65	529	N/A
Italian Bond	(Jun 98)	162.21	16.46 - 16.30	38676	37750
3M Sterling	(Sep 98)	92.84	92.84 - 92.81	39874	65126
3M Euro Yen	(Sep 98)	96.20	95.21 - 95.09	4059	N/A
3M Euro	(Sep 98)	96.20	96.20 - 96.18	715	N/A
3M Euro Yen	(Sep 98)	96.22	96.22 - 96.19	1603	174465
E.G.U.	(Jun 98)	96.25	96.25 - 96.18	12970	264365
3M Euro	(Sep 98)	96.25	96.25 - 96.18	5202	N/A
3M Euro Yen	(Sep 98)	96.27	96.27 - 96.17	4698	4692
3M Euro	(Sep 98)	96.28	96.28 - 96.17	4698	4692
FLSSE 100	(Jun 98)	376.60	376.60	7263	521
FLSSE 100	(Jun 98)	376.60	376.60	599	494
FLSSE 100	(Jun 98)	91.26	91.26 - 91.31	4698	4692

Settlement price: 3763.0	closing offer price			Call/Put Total/vol
Series	3700	3750	3800	
June	8775	50/38	23/80	9/98
July	10738	76/80	50/83	26/118
Aug	123180	93/80	67/105	45/132
Sep	14779	115/96	90/121	66/147

Commodities

INDUSTRIAL METALS - London Metal Exchange					
\$/lbm	Cash	3 mths	Volume	LINE Stocks	chg
Aluminum 10000-52	1025.30	1074.0	80975	0	4000
Aluminum 10000-45	1016.45	1055.30	41	04000	- 320
Aluminum 10000-40	1005.40	1047.00	47400	03000	+ 100
Copper A	1005.00	1017.00	5000	00000	+ 70
Lead	807.00	820.00	5500	00000	+ 50
Nickel	7885.70	7975.40	13500	23000	+ 50
Zinc	8002.50	8100.00	3420	00000	- 150
Tin	120.00	120.00	10000	00000	0
Platinum Contract	120	120.00	34	00000	0

Stock volumes in change in

Exchange rate	1975	1973	1968	Exchange rate on Friday 21 May '76			
PRECIOUS METALS							
per 100 troy oz	\$	£	Coinage	\$	£	\$	
Platinum	40000	25465	Britannia	407	259	Kruglands	382395
Palladium	19050	10335	Britannia 1/2 oz	161	125	Swiss	38185
Silver spot	534	339	Britannia 25 oz	64	50	Nichols	382670
Gold Bull	38220	25242	Britannia 10 oz	51	34	Maple Leaf	382407
						Swiss Bank & Co	382669

AGRICULTURAL									
Cocoa		Coffee		Barley		Potatoes		Potatoes	
LCE	£/ton	LCE	£/tonne	LCE	£/tonne	LCE	£/tonne	ADA	£/tonne
May	1061	May	1655	May	106.50	Jun	225.60	May	32
July	703	July	1613	Sep	108.75	Nov	92.50	Jun	23
Sep	1228	Sep	1791	Nov	122.00	Mar	70.00	Apr	23
Val	3,519	Val	2,388	Val	2	Mar	115	Val	382

White Sugar	Freight	Wheat	Corn	1000 Pounds
LCE	Wheats	LCE	CBOT#	Cents/bushel
Aug	375.00	May	131.25	Sett
Oct	343.00	Jun	131.00	476.50
Dec	332.00	Jul	155.00	476.50
Feb	2,400	Sep	375.00-333.00	392.00

Other Soya (Americas) _____
 Source: C&D

May	Melco (HKS)**	Storero	ra	June/July	Soye OHS	FL/100kg	1010
April/July	Copco (H)	Storero	1850	April/July	Coconut Oil (I)	Storero	8250
June	Cotton (MY)	US&CN	8125	June	Banliao Oil	Storero	6050
June	Wheat	Acordg	5830	June/July	Papayeed Oil	FL/100kg	1010
June	Rubber*	Meandg	2805	May/June	Groundnut Oil	Storero	9150

Origin: KENACG = Kenya origin; *Philippines/Indonesia **Malaysia ***Europe Source: FT Information/Reuters

Brent Crude	(Barrrel)	Gasoil	(Bonne)	WTI	Production ↑	(Bonne)
1996	5.30pct	"rising	tr 50	1996	"rising	
June	1820	-008	18.50	Jun	260.55	-0.50
July	18.35	-003	18.55	Jul	184.00	-0.75
Aug	1790	-004	18.59	Aug	183.25	-0.50
Vol: 15592	Index:	18.12	Vol:	7995	Oct	1800
						Heavy Fuel Oil
						8488

COMMODITY INDICES							
"GSCI" indices							
	Base date	%Spot	%Day Chg	Dec 31st	%Yr to day	Year ago	% Yr chg
Index	1970=100	29185	+121	29350	+381	9444	+1434
Agricultural	1970=100	33892	-102	28735	+1344	24738	+5938
Energy	1965=100	7187	+054	7128	-548	8371	-1243
Industrial Metals	1970=100	16270	-171	16622	+169	19878	-355
Nonmetals							-37

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Canada Mortgage Ser 2	5944	4763	Royal Scottish Group Managed	7267
CDPFI Equity	5828	4880	Royal Scottish UK Equity	5092
CDPFI Government	3353	3532	Scottish American Equity	7951
CD With Pensions Fund	1851	1851	Scottish American Equity Ser 1	7880
Commercial Union I	2045	2180	Scottish American Managed	5988
Commercial Union Managed	4718	4817	Scottish Life Insurance	5222
Commercial Union UK Equity	6817	6124	Scottish Mutual Equity	5302
Commercial Union With Pensions	1381	1388	Scottish Mutual Managed	6284
Equipe Ser Managed	182	182	Scott Ship and Ship Brok	7241
			Scott Ship and Ship Brok	7159
			Scott Ship and Ship Brok	7241
			Scott Ship and Ship Brok	7159


Finance	2,000	2,000	Finance	2,000	2,000
Human Resources	4,000	4,000	Human Resources	4,000	4,000
Information Systems	2,000	2,000	Information Systems	2,000	2,000
Marketing	2,000	2,000	Marketing	2,000	2,000
Operations	2,000	2,000	Operations	2,000	2,000
Product Development	2,000	2,000	Product Development	2,000	2,000
Quality Control	2,000	2,000	Quality Control	2,000	2,000
Research & Development	2,000	2,000	Research & Development	2,000	2,000
Sales	2,000	2,000	Sales	2,000	2,000
Supply Chain Management	2,000	2,000	Supply Chain Management	2,000	2,000
Training & Development	2,000	2,000	Training & Development	2,000	2,000
Warehouse	2,000	2,000	Warehouse	2,000	2,000
Legal	2,000	2,000	Legal	2,000	2,000
Procurement	2,000	2,000	Procurement	2,000	2,000
Project Management	2,000	2,000	Project Management	2,000	2,000
Public Relations	2,000	2,000	Public Relations	2,000	2,000
Security	2,000	2,000	Security	2,000	2,000
Software Development	2,000	2,000	Software Development	2,000	2,000
Systems Administration	2,000	2,000	Systems Administration	2,000	2,000
Technical Support	2,000	2,000	Technical Support	2,000	2,000
Transportation	2,000	2,000	Transportation	2,000	2,000
Business Development	2,000	2,000	Business Development	2,000	2,000
Customer Service	2,000	2,000	Customer Service	2,000	2,000
Finance	2,000	2,000	Finance	2,000	2,000
Human Resources	4,000	4,000	Human Resources	4,000	4,000
Information Systems	2,000	2,000	Information Systems	2,000	2,000
Marketing	2,000	2,000	Marketing	2,000	2,000
Operations	2,000	2,000	Operations	2,000	2,000
Product Development	2,000	2,000	Product Development	2,000	2,000
Quality Control	2,000	2,000	Quality Control	2,000	2,000
Research & Development	2,000	2,000	Research & Development	2,000	2,000
Sales	2,000	2,000	Sales	2,000	2,000
Supply Chain Management	2,000	2,000	Supply Chain Management	2,000	2,000
Training & Development	2,000	2,000	Training & Development	2,000	2,000
Warehouse	2,000	2,000	Warehouse	2,000	2,000
Legal	2,000	2,000	Legal	2,000	2,000
Procurement	2,000	2,000	Procurement	2,000	2,000
Project Management	2,000	2,000	Project Management	2,000	2,000
Public Relations	2,000	2,000	Public Relations	2,000	2,000
Security	2,000	2,000	Security	2,000	2,000
Software Development	2,000	2,000	Software Development	2,000	2,000
Systems Administration	2,000	2,000	Systems Administration	2,000	2,000
Technical Support	2,000	2,000	Technical Support	2,000	2,000
Transportation	2,000	2,000	Transportation	2,000	2,000
Business Development	2,000	2,000	Business Development	2,000	2,000
Customer Service	2,000	2,000	Customer Service	2,000	2,000
Finance	2,000	2,000	Finance	2,000	2,000
Human Resources	4,000	4,000	Human Resources	4,000	4,000
Information Systems	2,000	2,000	Information Systems	2,000	2,000
Marketing	2,000	2,000	Marketing	2,000	2,000
Operations	2,000	2,000	Operations	2,000	2,000
Product Development	2,000	2,000	Product Development	2,000	2,000
Quality Control	2,000	2,000	Quality Control	2,000	2,000
Research & Development	2,000	2,000	Research & Development	2,000	2,000
Sales	2,000	2,000	Sales	2,000	2,000
Supply Chain Management	2,000	2,000	Supply Chain Management	2,000	2,000
Training & Development	2,000	2,000	Training & Development	2,000	2,000
Warehouse	2,000	2,000	Warehouse	2,000	2,000
Legal	2,000	2,000	Legal	2,000	2,000
Procurement	2,000	2,000	Procurement	2,000	2,000
Project Management	2,000	2,000	Project Management	2,000	2,000

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22

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23

EURO 96: Midfield takes the strain as England coach relies on attack and defence in his final squad for the tournament

Lee the victim of Venables' Catch 22

GLENN MOORE

Football Correspondent

The last four contenders slipped by the way-side yesterday as England finally completed their long march to the European Championship. Dennis Wise, Robert Lee, Ugo Ehiogu and Jason Wilcox left Heathrow Airport knowing that, like Peter Beardsley, their role in Euro 96 would be confined to that of spectator.

For the remaining 22 players on England's tour to China and Hong Kong there was only relief, their 13-hour journey eased by the knowledge that, on Sunday evening, they will be meeting again at Bisham Abbey to prepare for Euro 96.

There must have been some difficult goodbyes at Heathrow. Ehiogu and Wilcox have come late into contention and that will ease the pain of rejection. But Wise was in the second squad Terry Venables named, more than two years ago. He and Venables are relatively close. The only consolation for Wise, as he began to contemplate his summer, is that at the end of it his former club manager, Glenn Hoddle, will be coaching England.

There is no such straw to clutch at for Lee, the man who was described as the best midfielder in England by his club manager, Kevin Keegan. At 30, his England career, which began 19 months ago, could be over. His exit is a surprise - he has played in every England match for which he was fit this season.

The damaging absence was against China - Jamie Redknapp appears, like Nick Barmby, to have won his place that night. Lee missed both that and the Hong Kong game with a muscle strain, as did Wise. That both should be dropped suggests that by the time of the latter match their injuries were more tactical than actual.

The Football Association normally provide cars to take their players home: one suspects Lee shared one car with Beardsley, while Steve Howey and Les Ferdinand shared another. Both of the latter two would have been relieved not to have found Venables asking for "a quick word".

Howey was not even due to travel to China. He came in late when Mark Wright dropped out and has still to prove his fitness. Venables, incidentally, made one last telephone call to Wright at the weekend to see if there was any chance of including him.

"I know I'm lucky to be in, but only because of my injury problems," Howey said. "If I hadn't spent so much time out of action, I'm certain I would have been picked automatically. I know I can get myself into shape, I'll train with Derek Wright [the Newcastle physio] tomorrow and Thursday, and go down to London on Friday before the rest of the lads for some more work."

The Newcastle defender, who struggled in the early stages of Sunday's game against Hong Kong, added: "After about seven minutes I was taking in water, but I got my second wind. At half-time Terry asked me how I was feeling and I said my hamstring was tightening up a bit. He told me: 'That's to be expected. But don't be a hero. Have another quarter of an hour and I'll bring you off.'"

In the end, Venables chose both Ferdinand and Robbie Fowler, presumably on the basis that it was too risky to have just one alternative to Shearer. That meant something had to give, and it appears to be on the wing.

In omitting Wilcox and Wise, Venables has lost two of the best crossers. Wilcox's omission also means there is no left-footed winger in the party - the surviving wide men, Darren Anderton, Steve McManaman and Steve Stone, are all right-footed.

Anderton is one of four Tottenham players, which suggests that Alan Sugar's one-time ban on Venables visiting White Hart Lane was less damaging than they feared. No other team provides more than three: the champions, Manchester United, have only two, the Neville brothers although, to be fair, almost half Alex Ferguson's team were not available to Venables on grounds of nationality. With

Barmby also included, the chant of "England Hotspur" could be aired.

Only four of the party have playing experience of a European Championship: Stuart Pearce, David Platt and Alan Shearer were in Sweden in 1992. Tony Adams played in Germany four years earlier. Paul Gascoigne also has tournament experience from Italia 90. Their know-how will be vital in the coming weeks as the attention and pressure intensify.

It is a youthful squad, only David Seaman, Pearce and Teddy Sheringham are over 30, half are under 25 with Phil Neville just 19.

Venables did not go into detail about his choices, but did say: "I have always said who I would like to be the most difficult decision of my footballing life. It has been, but professionals have to take difficult decisions and others have to accept them. Those who missed

out have been unfortunate. The 22 gives a squad of quality, versatility, flair and, above all, a squad which believes in itself. Over more than two years a real unity of purpose has grown up. We want to win for everyone."

Can they? Yes, along with about 10 other countries. It is a decent squad with genuine potential but there are question marks. Can Gascoigne dominate opponents as he did six years ago? Will the centre of defence hold? Will the forwards ever start scoring?

Seaman, Paul Ince and Sheringham are likely to be the most consistent performers. Barmby, McManaman or Fowler could establish themselves as international stars. Anderton probably will.

It has taken Venables two and a half years, 19 internationals and 46 capped players to get to this stage. The next five weeks will determine how his reign as England coach will be remembered. A nation expects.



1 David Seaman
(Arsenal)

Age 32. Caps: 24. Goals: 0. Established himself as clear first choice. Calm, safe hand, brave. Capable of banishing memories of Gascoigne at Wembley, Bengamp in Rotterdam and Nayim in Paris. Forecast: Will prove one of the tournament's best.



2 Gary Neville
(Manchester United)

Age 21. Caps: 10. Goals: 0. Perfect player for new threat at the back system, under pressure from younger brother Phil if four are played. Fast learner with a good temperament, and a mature reader of the game. Forecast: Will confirm great promise.



3 Stuart Pearce
(Nottingham Forest)

Age 24. Caps: 65. Goals: 5. A comforting presence in the dressing room, an unerring one to play against. A better international player than he is given credit for; rarely booked despite the physical nature of his game. Distribution a weakness. Forecast: Solid but unspectacular.



4 Paul Ince
(Internazionale)

Age 28. Caps: 19. Goals: 2. Emerging as England's crucial player; his burgeoning talents refined, and ego tempered, in the pressured world of Serie A in Italy. Has the opportunity to establish a world reputation. Forecast: England's best player on the field.



5 Tony Adams
(Arsenal)

Age 29. Caps: 40. Goals: 4. Slight doubts about fitness, pace and technique, but none about heart, experience or presence. A leader of men who is comfortable with big occasions. Aware of his limitations and how to cover them. Forecast: Could end up captain.



6 Gareth Southgate
(Aston Villa)

Age 25. Caps: 4. Goals: 0. Already beginning to show the same poise on the pitch as he does off it. Has settled well into international football, but is still learning and opportunities may be limited in this tournament. Forecast: Ince's understudy.



7 David Platt
(Arsenal)

Age 29. Caps: 58. Goals: 27. Long-time captain whose position increasingly appears to rely on his phenomenal goal-scoring record. Passing lacks regularity, but his experience and composure remain valuable assets. Forecast: Early goals or he may be out.



8 Paul Gascoigne
(Rangers)

Age 29. Caps: 38. Goals: 7. Ambition to recapture the spirit of Italia 90. England's great hope, the one who could make the difference. Fitness and attitude improving, can he still do it? Forecast: Magic remains but now needs greater support - must survive Scotland game.



9 Alan Shearer
(Blackburn)

Age 25. Caps: 23. Goals: 5. The man in possession despite not scoring for England for 20 months. Still leads the line well, but needs goals to prove he can do it against international defences. Forecast: Will survive drought as long as England are scoring goals.



12 Steve Howey
(Newcastle)

Age 24. Caps: 4. Goals: 0. Fitness is a worry, especially with such an inexperienced player. Very promising player with a cool head and developing technique, but his England football education is still in the early stages. Forecast: Warning the England bench.



13 Tim Flowers
(Blackburn Rovers)

Age 29. Caps: 8. Goals: 0. Erratic Umbro Cup and poor start to the season cost him the chance of being No 1. Now under challenge from Walker. Good shot-stopper, usually even temperament. Forecast: Bench-warmer waiting for break.



18 Les Ferdinand
(Newcastle)

Age 29. Caps: 10. Goals: 4. Venables took a long time to give him his chance, and he has yet to take it. England's style of play may not be suited to him, but he will worry many defenders and goalkeepers. Forecast: Whether he gets off the bench depends on Shearer.



19 Phil Neville
(Manchester United)

Age 19. Caps: 1. Goals: 0. Only teenager in party, and began the season in United's youth team. Better going forward than his brother Gary, but inexperienced in the new system. Only capped on Thursday. Fine temperament. Forecast: Will respond well if required.



20 Steve Stone
(Nottingham Forest)

Age 24. Caps: 6. Goals: 2. Not as gifted as Anderton but took to the international game almost as well. Untried by step up, though poor tour raised questions after long season. Headworking and a developing eye for goal. Forecast: Will not let England down - if he plays.



21 Robbie Fowler
(Liverpool)

Age 21. Caps: 3. Goals: 0. Finest prospect in English football, but yet to lock the part in an England shirt. Needs first goal breakthrough for confidence. Powerful shot, good positional awareness, natural finisher. Forecast: Shearer has to fall up front first.



15 Jamie Redknapp
(Liverpool)

Age 22. Caps: 6. Goals: 0. Surprise inclusion who may go straight into team on the back of his promising partnership with Gascoigne. Good passer, powerful shot, thoughtful player and mature attitude on the field. Forecast: Could blossom through the tournament.



16 Sol Campbell
(Tottenham)

Age 21. Caps: 1. Goals: 0. Ability to play in variety of positions got him in squad, but "jack of all trades, master of none" uncertainty has slowed his progress into the team. Strong and gifted, but does he know enough? Forecast: Probably wanted only in a crisis.



17 Steve McManaman
(Liverpool)

Age 24. Caps: 10. Goals: 0. Frustrating - or frustrated? Not allowed the freedom he enjoys at Liverpool but given his predictability - runs inside on to right foot every time - could he justify a place on dribbling alone? Forecast: Peripheral impact on the tournament.



18 Les Ferdinand
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22 Ian Walker
(Tottenham)

Age 24. Caps: 2. Goals: 0. Pushing for place as Seaman's understudy. Agile and easy-going, but prone to occasional lapse of concentration. Son of Mike. Won first cap 11 days ago, and yet to start an international. Forecast: Not this time, but future prospect.



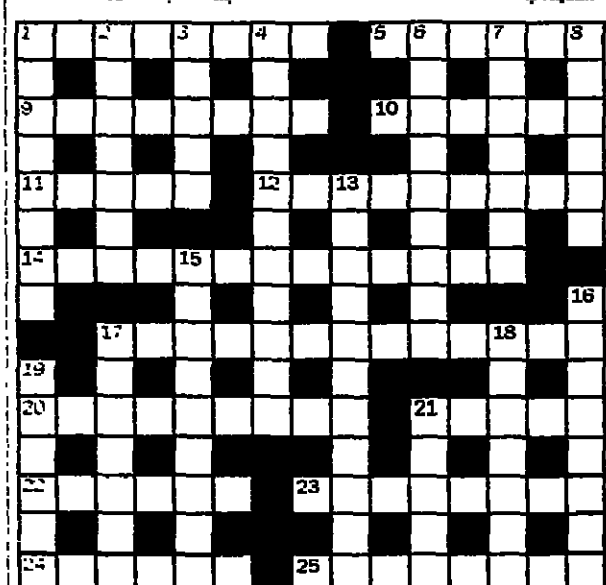
TERRY VENABLES' BOYS OF '96

THE INDEPENDENT CROSSWORD

No. 2999, Wednesday 29 May

By Aquila

Tuesday's Solution



ACROSS
1 Difficult to see through this waterfall (8)
2 Dog has a day in Cruik's, for example (6)
3 All people using energy, extremely united (8)
4 Toppers can be very quick in bars (6)
5 Hunter is one found in quiet country road (5)
6 Judging point-to-point meeting, unexpectedly (9)
7 Miss her chocolates, perhaps (13)
8 Eddy from him put before Bond, say (13)
9 Letter opener (9)
10 Check with doctor if taking in summer abroad (5)
11 Nobody in Holloway (6)
12 Maternal, non-twisting in Greek island (8)

DOWN
1 Take tin-opener to chopped peaches - it's the best buy! (8)
2 Laundry-bay (3,4)
3 Nursery with bursary, for example (5)
4 Counties not disposed to be quarrelsome... (11)
5 Lucky thing one is attached to a shire (9)
6 Red suit changed for something more grey (7)
7 Two such violations do not make one right (6)
8 Express porter following the bride? (5-6)

15 They show how far we have gone, to doom trees to destruction (9)
16 Most grave of western estimates (8)
17 House cut off, with enclosure for horses (7)
18 Digging in France? (7)
19 Director's first paper-shredder is neat! (6)
20 Unfashionable old hat, would you say? (5)

THE FOUR WHO DID NOT MAKE IT



Ugo Ehiogu A wretched end to the season has just been a cushion after a reasonably promising debut, only makes something of a surprise name and he has time on his side.

Robert Lee A Blackpool winger's exclusion in the original squad all the more mystifying in recent matches.

Jason Wilcox Favoured at one point by a future England captain, the season has just been a cushion after a reasonably promising debut, only makes something of a surprise name and he has time on his side.

Dennis Wise A Blackpool winger's exclusion in the original squad all the more mystifying in recent matches.

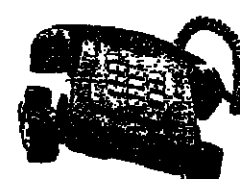
'Over the past two years I've come to realise what I'm best at. I've tried running football clubs, and I think I did well. But my talent is for coaching and managing football teams'

In the Independent's comprehensive guide to Euro 96 next Monday, Terry Venables talks to Ken Jones about his future.

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